



## Chase Brexton Health Care

Mt. Vernon Center • 1111 North Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410.837.2050 • [chasebrexton.org](http://chasebrexton.org)

May 8, 2024

**Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Proposal for Upper Payment Limit on Prescription Drugs**

Dear Members of the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board,

As the Chief Pharmacy and Strategy Officer and Director of Pharmacy, we are writing to express our profound concerns regarding the potential repercussions of implementing upper payment limits on prescription drugs for our patient population and the long-term sustainability of our mission.

The proposal to establish upper payment limits could have a significant impact on 340B pharmacy savings curtail for providing care to underserved population in Maryland. At Chase Brexton, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), we annually serve over 45,000 unique patients, the majority of whom rely on us as their primary source of healthcare. Among them are over 3,000 HIV patients and 4,700 diabetic patients, who depend on Chase Brexton for essential medications.

The ramifications of such a decision extend far beyond Chase Brexton; they threaten the entire network of FQHCs, jeopardizing health equity and our collective ability to serve marginalized communities. The 340B program was established to maximize scarce federal resources and provide more comprehensive services. It enables us to offer low-cost medications to under-insured patients and not as a profit-making endeavor. Every dollar saved through the program is reinvested back into patients' care, sustaining our mission.

The 340B drug program plays a crucial role in providing affordable medications, such as offering Humalog insulin for less than \$2 per vial to eligible patients. However, when misconceptions persist, it undermines the essential services provided by FQHCs.

---

To provide compassionate and integrated high quality health care that honors diversity, addresses health inequities, and advances wellness in the communities we serve. We are committed to being trustworthy and reliable and to authentically living our values:

**Respect • Compassion • Patient-Focused Care • Innovation**



## Chase Brexton Health Care

Mt. Vernon Center • 1111 North Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410.837.2050 • [chasebrexton.org](http://chasebrexton.org)

We urge the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board to carefully consider the far-reaching and unintended consequences of implementing upper payment limits and prioritize the healthcare needs of underserved communities in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Mahro M Ershadi, MBA, PharmD  
Chief Pharmacy and Strategy Officer

Jeffrey Cywinski, RPH, ACE  
Pharmacy Director

CC: Patrick Mutch  
Chief Executive Officer

Sebastian Ruhs, MD, PhD  
Infectious Disease Physician  
Chief Medical Officer

---

To provide compassionate and integrated high quality health care that honors diversity, addresses health inequities, and advances wellness in the communities we serve. We are committed to being trustworthy and reliable and to authentically living our values:

**Respect • Compassion • Patient-Focused Care • Innovation**