340B Helps Vulnerable Californians Lead Healthier Lives

How Does the 340B Program Work?
Under the 340B program, drug manufacturers participating in Medicaid sell outpatient drugs at discounted prices to health care organizations that care for significant numbers of uninsured and low-income patients. Health care organizations use the savings to provide or support:

- Low or no-cost medications
- Urban and rural primary care clinics
- Mobile health care clinics
- Vaccinations and flu shots
- Mental health services
- Medication management programs
- Community health programs
- Chemotherapy/infusion centers
- Hemophilia programs
- Hepatitis C treatment
- HIV clinics
- Diabetes screening and education programs
- Dental care
- Asthma management programs
- And more

Knowledge is Powerful Medicine for Diabetes
Nearly 17 percent of Imperial Valley adults have been diagnosed with diabetes. Without intervention, they would be at risk for stroke, heart disease, renal failure, neuropathy and other serious problems. Using savings from the 340B drug discount program, El Centro Regional Medical Center hired a certified diabetes educator and community educators to provide diabetes education programs, one-on-one consults and medication management guidance, and to follow-up on patient progress. The results have been impressive. In the last quarter of 2017 alone, nearly 4,000 patients benefited from the diabetes education services with significant reduction in diabetes-related morbidity.

Meds-to-Beds Program Improves Outcomes, Transitions of Care
University of Southern California’s Keck Hospital found that a surprising number of discharged patients had not filled their prescribed medications. Knowing that 25 percent of readmissions are medication-related, Keck launched the Meds-to-Beds program in its Cardiac Department, which serves high-risk patients whose costs of care can soar if recovery is challenging. Using savings from the 340B drug discount program, Keck Hospital hired pharmacists to work with the cardiac care and discharge teams and to troubleshoot insurance authorizations so that patients leave with needed medications. 90 percent of patients in the cardiac program take advantage of the pharmacy services provided through 340B savings.
Vouchers Link Homeless and Underserved to Dental Care

Orchard Hospital’s emergency department (ED) saw an increase in homeless and underserved patients with oral abscesses and other serious dental issues. Without the means to afford dental care, oral health issues quickly turned into serious medical issues requiring ED treatment. Orchard Hospital came up with a creative solution. Using savings from the 340B drug discount program, the hospital provided qualified patients with dental care vouchers for area dentists. With better access to dental care, patients are receiving the treatment they need and staying healthier, and ED visits for oral health issues have been reduced.

A Helping Hand to Navigate Cancer

Living with a cancer diagnosis is difficult, especially for underserved populations whose access to care and services may be challenging. The Oncology and Hematology Center at El Centro Regional Medical Center set out to expand and improve patient services. Using savings from the 340B drug discount program, they hired patient navigators to connect patients to much needed services including medications, prosthesis, wigs and even transportation. The navigators also help educate patients about their illness and treatments. Since the patient navigators came on board in late 2017, more than 110 patients have benefited from the services funded through 340B drug discount savings. Satisfaction is high, and patients are exceptionally grateful for the support and assistance provided by the patient navigators.

To learn more about how savings from the 340B drug discount program helps Californians lead healthier lives, visit www.calhospital.org.