Enhanced Medication Access

In a community where the nearest 24/7 retail pharmacy is a three-hour round-trip, providing medication during a visit becomes vital to safety and convenience. Savings from the 340B program helped Trinity Regional Medical Center secure a drug dispensing machine for emergency department patients, an annual hospital expense ranging from $25,000-$30,000.

Additionally, savings from the 340B program helps support Trinity Regional Medical Center’s on-campus retail pharmacy, providing patients with convenient access to medication immediately after provider appointments improving patient medication compliance. Trinity’s Retail Pharmacy also provides a meds-to-beds inpatient program which provides patients with medication upon discharge from the hospital. Trinity’s retail pharmacy would not be financially viable, and operations would be closed, without the 340B discount drug program and annual savings.

As a regional rural referral center, Trinity Regional Medical Center has community pharmacies in Fort Dodge, Manson, Humboldt, Lake View, Sac City, Storm Lake, Carroll, and Spencer. The 340B revenue derived from the contracted pharmacy relationships not only helps Trinity support the programs previously described, the 340B program also helps ensure the financial viability and presence of the retail pharmacies themselves in these small rural communities. Closure of these small community pharmacies would have a significantly negative impact to the individuals living in these rural communities, especially for elderly residents requiring access to medications to manage chronic health conditions associated with aging.