Access to Care and Medications

As a regional rural referral center, Trinity Regional Medical Center is a hub for rural health care in North-Central Iowa. While labor and supply costs have skyrocketed beyond payor reimbursement, we have fought to continue providing the needed services in our local communities. As operating margins tighten, manufacturer restrictions on contract pharmacies have diverted 340B savings and depleted funding that promote access. Dollars that would contribute to maintaining 340B hospital bed capacity and improving recruitment and retention of rural health care professionals, like nurses and respiratory therapists, are reduced.

Despite these restrictions, Trinity Regional Medical Center is working to ensure our patients have access to prescribed medications. 340B savings are used in part by Trinity to secure and maintain a drug dispensing machine for emergency department patients, an annual hospital expense ranging from $25,000-$30,000. This device helps our patients avoid a three-hour round trip to obtain after-hours prescriptions.

Additionally, savings from the 340B Program helps support Trinity Regional Medical Center’s on-campus retail pharmacy. Our retail pharmacy provides patients with convenient access to medications immediately after provider appointments and improves patient medication adherence. Our retail pharmacy also offers a meds-to-beds inpatient program which provides patients with medications 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 support derived from these savings.