



340B^{IN} ACTION

UnityPoint Health – Fort Dodge

Trinity Regional Medical Center | Fort Dodge, Iowa

Sustaining Healthcare Access for Rural Residents

As a sole community hospital and regional rural referral center, Trinity Regional Medical Center is a hub for rural healthcare in North Central Iowa. While labor and supply costs have skyrocketed beyond payor reimbursement, Trinity Regional Medical Center faces operational decisions about how to continue providing the needed services in our local communities. 340B savings have been shifted to address operational gaps and maintain access.

340B savings are used in part to maintain these services:

- **Inpatient Pediatrics and Obstetrics.** Maternal health deserts are growing in Iowa. To support outreach to keep high-risk pregnancies within North Central Iowa, Trinity has partnered with Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines for consultants and services. **In 2023, Trinity delivered 446 babies – the majority of which were Medicaid with reimbursement far below cost.** The next closest location to delivery a baby from Fort Dodge is 60+ minutes for uncomplicated births and upwards of 2 hours when risk factors are present.
- **Specialty Services.** With heightened prevalence of chronic conditions, Trinity has offered local access to gastroenterology, nephrology, neurology, dermatology, and more. **Rural residents would have to travel 2+ hours for most of these services.** The impact is likely reduced preventative care, missed early interventions, and increased incidence of advanced disease states for newly diagnosed patients.
- **Supportive services.** **Team-based care is often not reimbursed or reimbursed at a loss** and includes mental health, medication management therapy, chronic disease management, care navigation, social work, and chaplain services. Particularly for complex patients, these services significantly impact health outcomes and quality of life.

340B By The Numbers

\$8.4 million Annual 340B Savings

446 Annual Births

39% 340B % of Total Spend

\$19.2 million Safety Net Community Benefit

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Trinity uses **Contract Pharmacies in our rural communities** to enable patient access to affordable medications and support many patient programs. **Manufacturer restrictions on contract pharmacies threatens more than \$5 million of 340B savings from communities in our 6-county rural service area.** Savings that would have supported patient programs are instead retained by drug manufacturers.