



March 1, 2026

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RE: Annual Report Minnesota's Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Dear Governor Walz, Senators, and Representatives:

I am writing as the Executive Director of Minnesota's Prescription Drug Affordability Board. The Board was duly constituted by the appointment process described in Minnesota Statutes section 62J.87 and began meeting in March 2024. The Board has continued to meet in 2025, convening nine times over the course of the year and focused its work on the following areas.

Staff and Policies

The Board hired an Executive Director in May of 2025. Since that time the Board has met monthly and approved policies to govern the activities of the Board, its employees, and its contractors dealing with the protection of proprietary information and conflicts of interest. The Board also established a mission, vision, values statement.

Patient and Stakeholder Input

The Board convened two patient listening sessions in 2025, seeking input from patients and other stakeholders about the difficulty they face affording prescription medication, specific medication they struggle to afford, and general comments on the PDAB's activities. Additionally, the PDAB solicited public comments and hosted presentations by various stakeholders, including members of the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council (PDAC), at its meetings. The PDAB plans to continue convening patient listening sessions and seek public comment at its meetings throughout 2026.

Development of Processes for Drug Cost Reviews, Drug Selection and Setting Upper Payment Limits

The Board is currently developing processes to conduct drug cost reviews and select drug products for review to determine if they pose significant affordability challenges for the state health care system or for patients. The Board is also reviewing its authority and the process it will use to set Upper Price Limits (UPLs) as described in Minnesota Statutes section 62J.92. The Board has received from the Minnesota Department of Health the list of drugs that meet the criteria established in Minnesota Statutes section 62J.90 for potential review by the PDAB. The Board is currently reviewing this list, along with the list of “Prescription Drugs of Substantial Public Interest” established in Minnesota Statutes section 62J.84, the list of drugs subject to the Medicare maximum fair price under United States Code, title 42, Section 1191 (c), and the list of drugs brought to the PDAB during its patient listening sessions.

Conclusion

Minnesota Statutes section 62J.93 requires that on an annual basis “the board shall submit a report to the governor and legislature on general price trends for prescription drug products and the number of prescription drug products that were subject to the board’s cost review and analysis, including the result of any analysis as well as the number and disposition of appeals and judicial reviews.” The Board has not yet completed cost review and analysis of any prescription drug products but plans to begin this process in July of 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Vernon Rowen

Vernon Rowen

Executive Director

Prescription Drug Affordability Board

cc: Legislative Reference Library

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Tim Walz & Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan)

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