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## MAHP Releases Policy Brief on Prescription Drug Spending

**Boston, MA** – The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP) announced today the release of its latest edition of *MAHP* OnPoint, a series of policy briefs that highlight issues affecting the cost and quality of health care in the Commonwealth.

The latest paper – *Prescription Drug Spending: Driving Health Care Costs at the State and Federal Levels*, underlines trends of prescription drug spending and drivers of rising drug prices, and studies how they impact health care costs in Massachusetts and nationally. It highlights that prescription drug costs continue to rise yearly, which creates affordability and accessibility challenges for patients, families and the health care system and how product hopping and pay-for-delay settlements are unwarranted factors contributing to price increases.

The paper also offers sound recommendations to policymakers on ways to curtail spending growth while continuing to foster innovation, such as requiring transparency in prescription drug pricing from drug manufacturers, and participation in the Health Policy Commission annual cost trends hearing, as well as encouraging competition and cost effectiveness research for drugs and treatments.

"Increases in the cost of prescription drugs and specialty drugs are major drivers of health care spending. Given that Massachusetts failed to meet the health care cost benchmark in 2019, it is important that we continue to bring attention to this issue, as we seek to make health care coverage more affordable for employers and consumers," said Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of MAHP.

**About MAHP**
*The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans represents 16 health plans and 2 behavioral health organizations covering nearly 3 million Massachusetts residents.  It is dedicated to improving health for all in Massachusetts by promoting affordable, safe and coordinated health care.*

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