



**For Immediate Release
June 6, 2023**

**CONTACT: Lynda Jackson
774-212-0286**

MAHP Releases Policy Brief on Prescription Drug Spending

Boston, MA – The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans (MAHP) announced today the release of a new MAHP OnPoint, [*Rx Reality Check – Prescription Drug Spending: Driving Health Care Costs at the State and Federal Level*](#), the latest in a series of policy briefs that highlight issues affecting the cost and quality of health care in the Commonwealth.

As drug prices continue to skyrocket, pharmacy spending now accounts for the largest portion of total health care expenditures in Massachusetts, reaching \$12.7 billion as recently reported by the Center for Health Information and Analysis. In January of 2023 alone, drugmakers increased prices for nearly 1000 prescription drugs. MAHP’s latest OnPoint provides insight into trends in prescription drug spending and the impact on health care costs for employers and consumers in Massachusetts. Examining several of the unwarranted factors contributing to price increases, such as product hopping, pay-for-delay settlements and the current regulatory structure that favors the use of high-cost brand drugs, the paper calls on policymakers to take meaningful steps to curtail spending growth while continuing to foster innovation.

“Increases in the cost of prescription drugs and specialty drugs are major drivers of health care spending. Given that health care prices in Massachusetts continue to exceed the state’s health care cost benchmark, it is imperative that we continue to bring attention to this issue, as we seek to make health care coverage more affordable for employers and consumers. Health care cost containment and affordability are a shared responsibility among all players in the health care sector. It is essential that the pharmaceutical industry join providers and health plans in being accountable to the Health Policy Commission for cost growth that contributes to rising premiums.” said Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of MAHP.

The report makes the following recommendations: requiring transparency in prescription drug pricing from drug manufacturers, and participation in the HPC’s annual cost trends hearing, as well as encouraging competition and cost effectiveness research for drugs and treatments. Most of these require state or federal legislative action.

About MAHP

The Massachusetts Association of Health Plans represents 14 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 high-quality, affordable, and equitable health care.

###