



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON THE MEDICAID DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW BOARD**

*Statement by Eric Linzer, HPA President & CEO*

“We commend the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board for the action it has taken today as this is an important tool in determining whether the added benefits of more expensive drug treatments are sufficient to warrant the additional costs and whether the price is appropriate.

“While breakthrough medications offer tremendous clinical benefits for patients, drug manufacturers should not get a blank check to price drugs at exorbitant rates. This type of careful examination is critical to understanding the medical efficacy and cost of new prescription drugs, and the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board offers a model that should be applied more widely.

“Affordability of health care is the most pressing issue for employers and consumers, and health plans are committed to working on cost containment efforts aimed at preserving affordability. As pharmaceutical costs continue to be a major driver of rising health care costs, all New Yorkers would benefit from greater transparency into drug pricing to ensure that health care consumers in the state are getting value for the prices being charged.”

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*The New York Health Plan Association represents 28 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to nearly 8 million New Yorkers.*