

BELL'S FAMILY PHARMACY CLOSES IN TATE GEORGIA JUST AS PRICING DISPARITIES IN STATE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN DISCOVERED



- Bell's Family Pharmacy (pictured above) in Tate, Georgia closed its doors on February 17, 2024, citing low reimbursements and other PBM practices as the primary cause. It was the only stand-alone retail pharmacy in the town.
- Bell's closure is part of a disturbing pattern of independent pharmacy closures over the last several years including Arnold's Drug Co. (Cornelia), Concord Pharmacy (Dunwoody), Suwanee Pharmacy, Jones Pharmacy (Fayetteville), Randy's Pharmacy (Helen), Clarkesville Drugs, Scottie Discount Drugs (Hartwell), Scottie Discount Drugs (Royston), Prescription Shop (Statesboro), Medical Center Pharmacy (Fayetteville), Larry's Pharmacy (Waycross), and more.
- Despite offering high touch clinical and personalized service, GA independent pharmacies continue to suffer at the hands of large PBMs including low and underwater reimbursements in Georgia's State Health Benefit Plan.
- The below chart illustrates pricing disparities between independent pharmacies and chains in GA's SHBP.¹ These examples are of 15 commonly prescribed generics used to treat a wide variety of health conditions. These examples are no aberration but part of a pattern in which the SHBP's PBM pays independent pharmacies less than larger retail chain pharmacies.

15 Commonly Prescribed Generics Drug Name/Strength	Average Payment to 3 Closest Retail Chains ²	Bell's Family Pharmacy Payment	Chain Payment v. Bell's % Difference
Atorvastatin Cal 20mg 90-day	\$46.87	\$1.90	2,367% higher
Bupropion Hydro ER (Xl) 300mg 90-day	\$53.75	\$5.54	870% higher
Metformin Hydro ER 500mg 30-day	\$13.40	\$1.29	939% higher
Metoprolol Tartrate 100mg 90-day	\$23.89	\$14.44	65% higher
Amlodipine Besylate 10mg 90 day	\$23.55	\$1.51	1,460% higher
Levothyroxine 100mcg 90-day	\$4.00	\$4.39	10% (Bell's higher)
Lisinopril 20mg tablet 30-day	\$9.71	\$1.72	464% higher
Losartan Pot 50mg 90-day	\$41.44	\$4.74	774% higher
Omeprazole DR 10mg 90-day	\$102.65	\$66.59	54% higher
Esomeprazole Mag. 20mg 90-day	\$61.68	\$32.66	89% higher
Simvastatin 20mg 90-day	\$30.00	\$7.50	300% higher
Montelukast Sod 4mg 90-day	\$45.38	\$23.58	92% higher
Escitalopram Oxalate 20mg 90-day	\$55.10	\$9.01	512% higher
Topiramate 200mg 90-day	\$62.13	\$15.16	310% higher
Cephalexin 500mg 7-day	\$12.63	\$2.05	516% higher

PLEASE STAND WITH GA'S INDEPENDENT PHARMACIES³ & SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO FIX SHBP RX BENEFITS, END PBM PRICING GAMES, PAY ALL PHARMACIES FAIRLY & TRANSPARENTLY, & SAVE GA MONEY

¹ Pricing Source: <https://info.caremark.com/oe/shbp>; SHBP HMO

² Estimated average payment calculated using pricing source for Walgreens, Kroger, and CVS retail pharmacies located in Jasper, GA.