Cost comparisons between PBM pharmacies and local pharmacies

Mike Burns is a pharmacy owner who was diagnosed with cancer and forced to fill his oral chemotherapy medication through his healthcare plan's mail order company (Optum Specialty), not his own pharmacy, AuBurn, which had the drug sitting on its shelf. Optum Specialty charged Mike's health plan more than what his own pharmacy would have charged his health plan. But because of his health plan, he could not fill his medication at his own pharmacy and had to wait more than a week to get it by mail.

	150 MG 28-day supply	500 MG 28-day supply	Both strengths
Planned allowed amount	**$1,774.26**	**$5,218.80**	*$6,993.06*
PBM profit	**$1,574.22**	**$4,363.80**	**$5,938.02**

	150 MG 28-day supply	500 MG 28-day supply	Both strengths
Auburn total billed	**$320.04**	**$975.00**	*$1,295.04*
Auburn profit	**$120.00**	**$120.00**	**$240.00**

If he had been able to fill his prescriptions locally, he would've saved $5,698.02

Source: Mike Burns

YASHA MIKOLAJCZAK & LAUREN STEFFENS/Missourian