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## HRSA DELAYS START OF 340B GPO GUIDANCE

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April 5, 2013

America's hospitals welcome today's announcement that the Health Resources and Services Administration intends to delay the compliance date by which certain hospitals participating in the 340B drug pricing program must meet agency guidance. The guidance prohibits obtaining drugs through a group purchasing organization. The AHA and our 340B hospital members remain committed to this program that allows eligible safety net hospitals to stretch scarce federal resources to provide discounted drugs to our most vulnerable patients.

The AHA is pleased to see HRSA adopt a delay until August 7. The revised compliance date will allow hospitals time to work with their vendors and wholesalers to address the many process and procedural challenges that arose from the HRSA notice. Hospitals appreciate the flexibility to properly train staff to modify their existing inventory management system and ensure the procedures are working well.

The 340B program is critical to ensuring access to lower-cost drugs for safety-net hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. The AHA will continue to communicate with HRSA on guidance and education on the GPO compliance issues including manageable, reasonable timelines to implement changes.

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