Drug shortages and high drug prices can both affect patient access to critically needed medications. Medications cannot be effective, if patients can’t obtain needed treatments. In some cases, shortages and high prices lead to rationing, as well as tension in patient-provider relationships. Our discussion will focus on some of the ongoing actions to improve drug shortages and high prices. We will also provide some information about how patients can lower their drug costs, and communication tips for dialogue between clinicians and their patients.

Recommended background readings for this discussion:

For an overview on shortages:
https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(13)01043-4/abstract

For the most current stats on shortages:

For an overview on drug pricing: