Dear editor-

Most people agree that more transparency is needed in the prescription drug marketplace and, as an independent community pharmacist, I agree with this sentiment.

Transparency is particularly important in the context of prescription drug pricing and reimbursement. I serve many Medicare beneficiaries. Weeks, even months, after I provide these patients with their medication, drug plan middlemen levy large, unpredictable fees on community pharmacies. Where does this money go? This lack of transparency imperils our pharmacy’s ability to make decisions for the future of our business, as well as our ability to support local charities and organizations.

To alleviate this, federal Medicare officials should require Medicare prescription drug plans to disclose these hidden fees to provide a more accurate financial picture for taxpayers and for small business pharmacies such as mine. In addition, I urge [names of the congressional delegation] to write to Medicare and ask that such transparency requirements be implemented.