


FORBES &gt; BUSINESS &gt; RETAIL

# Walmart Ignored Health Care While Amazon And Get Well Worked To Addressed It

**Walter Loeb** Senior Contributor *I cover major developments in the retail industry.*[Follow](#)

May 13, 2024, 06:45am EDT



Pearland, Texas, USA - April 3, 2024: A Walmart Health Center in Pearland, Texas, USA. GETTY

Walmart decided to close their 51 health care clinics because of high operating costs. I regret that they made this move, since I understand that there are many rural areas in the United States where health care is not available. In particular, there is a need for urgent care centers to see people that need immediate attention, but don't have a condition that warrants going to a hospital.

There are few choices that help a person in need.

Amazon now has drones that fly prescriptions to people that have trouble getting to a brick-and-mortar pharmacy. That certainly helps. As a matter of fact, Amazon is tackling New York City. This writer has just received a postcard extolling the same day delivery of medicine in New York City. The card promises delivery in a day, and delivery to your door. The card also promises savings no matter how you pay, be it insurance or you can save up to 80% on your Prime membership. What's more, there is pharmacist support 24/7 for any questions a patient may have.

The New York City entry by Amazon is good and certainly will attract customers. It gives Amazon needed sales volume to make the drone service to less densely populated areas more profitable. Why doesn't Walmart have drones to service costumers? Or maybe encourage the USPS to get drones.

There are very few rural doctors providing primary care. Yet, the need in these areas continued to grow. Sickness can overtake a person anywhere and the need for life-saving medication is usually urgent. We saw during the Covid Pandemic that many people fared much better with a prompt prescription for medicines like Paxlovid.

Get Well Network (Get Well) was started by Michael O'Neil in 1999 as a result of personal hospital experiences. It is a digital company that monitors patients and ensures that they follow their doctor's orders. It ensures that the patient is reminded to take medicine when prescribed. It also monitors the well-being of a patient. The company develops a digital intimacy that help gathering information for quick decisions. Get Well works primarily with hospitals that refer patients for surveillance. The company started in Washington, D.C.

---

MORE FOR YOU

## Biden Vs. Trump 2024 Election Polls: Trump Leads Biden In These 5 Key Battleground States, Latest Survey Shows



## Netflix: Marvel Dud Among Movies New On Streaming Service This Week



## Houston Rockets Land Third Pick In Upcoming NBA Draft



---

Here is a company that personalizes a relationship, informs clinicians of patient's progress and educates members. While it does not deal with providing pharmaceutical prescriptions, it monitors the well-being of the client and their responses to care provided.

---

### Careers: Land the job, get a raise and learn to lead with our weekly Careers newsletter.

[Sign Up](#)

By signing up, you agree to receive this newsletter, other updates about Forbes and its affiliates' offerings, our [Terms of Service](#) (including resolving disputes on an individual basis via arbitration), and you acknowledge our [Privacy Statement](#).

---

**POSTSCRIPT:** These are just some examples how rural customers get help. More help is needed to make care and medicine available to outlying areas. Patients or ill persons cannot wait. They need attention now. Walmart is wrong to close the health care centers.



**Walter Loeb**

[Follow](#)

I was the senior retail analyst at Morgan Stanley for 16 years, following a 20 year career at retailers including Macy's, May Department Stores and Allied Stores. Currently I head Loeb... [Read More](#)

[Editorial Standards](#)

[Reprints & Permissions](#)