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A weekly service from Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

5 Reasons to Attend PBMI's 2017 Conference

PBMI - February 16

Managing pharmacy benefits has always been complex. As high-cost specialty drugs bring about unprecedented growth in spend and trend, the complexities and need to optimize program management have never been greater.

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TRENDING NEWS

Drugmaker Marathon 'Pausing' Delivery Of $89,000-A-Year Muscular Dystrophy Drug

Kaiser Health News - February 13

In a surprise move Monday, Marathon Pharmaceuticals told patient advocates that it would "pause" the launch of its drug Emflaza because of pricing concerns expressed by patients and advocacy groups.

PBMs counter pharma's pricing blame with proposals to cut $100B in drug costs

FiercePharma - February 9

Pushing back against recent criticism by the drug industry, pharmacy benefit managers are advocating for some policy changes of their own.

Trump administration won't overhaul 340B program, providers to keep drug subsidies

Healthcare Finance News - February 13

Providers will get to keep the big pharma subsidies from the 340B drug discount program, at least for now.

Grassley launches inquiry into orphan drugs after KHN investigation

FierceHealthcare - February 13

Republican Sen. A, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has opened an inquiry into potential abuses of the Orphan Drug Act that may have contributed to high prices on commonly used drugs.

Academics call time on $100,000 cancer drugs

Reuters - February 9

A group of academic researchers has demanded an end to cancer medicines costing more than $100,000 a year and proposed a new model of low-cost drug development that would capitalize on recent advances in science.

Dozens of new cancer drugs do little to improve survival, frustrating patients

Kaiser Health News - February 9

The 72 cancer therapies approved from 2002 to 2014 gave patients only 2.1 more months of life than older drugs, according to a study in JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery.

Adults urged to get vaccinated

Reuters - February 7

Too many U.S. adults are not getting vaccinated, putting themselves and others at risk, immunization experts say.

Why your doctor’s advice to take all your antibiotics may be wrong

STAT - February 9

You’ve heard it many times before from your doctor: If you’re taking antibiotics, don’t stop taking them until the pill vial is empty, even if you feel better.

Sharp rise reported in older Americans’ use of multiple psychotropic drugs

NYTimes - February 13

The number of retirement-age Americans taking at least three psychiatric drugs more than doubled between 2004 and 2013, even though almost half of them had no mental health diagnosis on record, researchers reported on Monday.

Doctors finally admit drugs can’t fix most cases of back pain

Vox - February 14

America’s doctors have finally admitted it: Their pharmaceutical tools to treat one of patients’ most common ailments don’t work.

Praluent maker digs in for long battle

MedPage Today - February 11

In a very unusual step, a Sanofi lawyer and other officials held a teleconference with reporters Friday to discuss the litigation going on with Amgen over Praluent (alirocumab), a PCSK9 inhibitor that it is marketing with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

FDA NEWS

FDA approves drug to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy

FDA - February 9

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved Emflaza (deflazacort) tablets and oral suspension to treat patients age 5 years and older with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a rare genetic disorder that causes progressive muscle deterioration and weakness.

Former FDA Chief Cites 5 Things To Watch On Drug Approvals And Keeping Drugs Safe

Kaiser Health News - February 14

The just-departed commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration has concerns about plans to speed up drug approvals and dramatically reduce regulations at the agency, as advocated recently by President Donald Trump.

Pharma industry shuns Trump push for radical shift at FDA

Reuters - February 15

U.S. President Donald Trump's vow to roll back government regulations at least 75 percent is causing anxiety for some pharmaceutical executives that a less robust Food and Drug Administration would make it harder to secure insurance coverage for pricey new medicines.

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