



Rx WIRE

A weekly service from
Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

February 9, 2017

Creating opportunity for our clients with an exclusive focus on pharmacy solutions.

Despite furor, branded Rx drug prices up nearly 11% last year

FiercePharma - February 6



In the face of a national backlash on drug prices, a handful of drugmakers have pledged to limit their prices on branded prescription drugs to 10% or less this year.

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SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

Biologics, Diabetes Meds Top 2016 Spending: Express Scripts

Medscape - February 6

Biologic anti-inflammatory drugs, diabetes medications, and cancer therapies were the top three categories of pharmaceutical spending in 2016 by employers who used the pharmaceutical benefit management (PBM) company Express Scripts.

Express Scripts says prescription drug spending slowed in 2016

Reuters - February 6

Express Scripts Holding Co, the largest pharmacy benefit manager in the United States, said prescription drug spending for its members slowed to less than 4 percent in 2016, at a time when scrutiny of drug price hikes has intensified.

340B Program Omnibus Guidance Withdrawn

The National Law Review - February 7

The Federal Office for Management and Budget has withdrawn the proposed omnibus guidance for the 340B Drug Pricing Program (previously referred to as the "Mega-Regs"), creating further uncertainty in the 340B

Program.

Getting Patients Hooked On An Opioid Overdose Antidote, Then Raising The Price

[Kaiser Health News](#) - January 30

First came Martin Shkreli, the brash young pharmaceutical entrepreneur who raised the price for an AIDS treatment by 5,000 percent.

Pharma's copay coupons, a key marketing tool, face new limits in California

[FiercePharma](#) - February 6

As pharma scrambles to defend its pricing practices around the country, a California legislator has set his sights on the industry's copay coupons, which cut patients' out-of-pocket costs in order to promote branded meds—particularly those facing cheap alternatives.

Think You're Allergic to Penicillin? Check Again

[Drugs.com](#) - February 6

Many people who think they're allergic to penicillin don't really have an allergy to this antibiotic, a pediatric expert says.

Trump Sinks Pharma Stocks on Medicare Drug Price Negotiation

[Bloomberg](#) - February 7

President Donald Trump supports Medicare drug price negotiations, his spokesman said Tuesday, remarks that sent pharmaceutical stocks swinging again as investors tried to assess whether drugmakers will be forced into bidding wars for government business.

U.S. House speaker says Obamacare replacement will pass this year

[Reuters](#) - February 8

The U.S. House of Representatives' Republican leader said on Tuesday that legislation to replace former President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law would be completed this year, trying to dispel the idea that the party is retreating from its campaign promise to dismantle Obamacare quickly.

Costco inks 90-day scripts pact with Rite Aid's EnvisionRx

[Chain Drug Review](#) - February 2

Costco Wholesale Corp. plans to offer a 90-day maintenance medication program through its pharmacies under an agreement with EnvisionRx, a pharmacy benefit management subsidiary of Rite Aid Corp.

U.S. Vaccine Guidelines for Flu, HPV Updated

[Drugs.com](#) - February 7

Roll up your sleeves, America. A national advisory panel of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released its 2017 advisory for recommended shots affecting adults.

PCSK9 Inhibitor Delivers Key CV Benefits in First Outcomes Trial

[MedPage Today](#) - February 2

Amgen announced on Thursday afternoon that evolocumab (Repatha) had met both its primary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death, non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, hospitalization for unstable angina, or coronary revascularization) and the even more rigorous key secondary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death, non-fatal MI, or non-fatal stroke) in the FOURIER trial.

FDA NEWS

FDA approves Amgen drug for secondary hyperparathyroidism

Reuters - February 7

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Amgen Inc's treatment for secondary hyperparathyroidism in adult patients with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, the U.S. biotech company said on Tuesday.

Opdivo Injection Approved for Bladder Cancer

Specialty Pharmacy Times - February 6

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company recently announced that the FDA approved nivolumab (Opdivo) injection for patients with advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma.

FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA warns about rare but serious allergic reactions with the skin antiseptic chlorhexidine gluconate

FDA - February 2

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning that rare but serious allergic reactions have been reported with the widely used skin antiseptic products containing chlorhexidine gluconate.

FDA Approves Copies of Advair and Flovent for Asthma Patients

Managed Care - January 30

The FDA has given the nod to two new products for adolescents and adults with asthma, according to a report from *BusinessWire*.



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www.psgconsults.com | 800.687.4404
2901 N. Dallas Pkwy. Suite #420 | Plano, TX 75093

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