



# Rx WIRE

A weekly service from  
Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

January 13, 2017

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

## Republican-led Senate takes first step to repeal 'Obamacare'

Associated Press - January 12



The Senate early Thursday passed a measure to take the first step forward on dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law, responding to pressure to move quickly even as Republicans and President-elect Trump grapple with what to replace it with.

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## SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

### Specialty Pharmacies Say Benefit Managers Are Squeezing Them Out

NYTimes - January 9

From its storefront in Union City, N.J., Prime Aid Pharmacy caters to patients with a wide range of ailments, from rheumatoid arthritis to hepatitis C.

### Egalet painkiller wins FDA approval but label disappoints

Reuters - January 9

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Monday approved Egalet Corp's long-acting opioid painkiller, Arymo ER, and will allow the company to claim it deters abuse by those seeking to dissolve and inject it.

### Few black diabetes patients in US drug trials

Fox News - January 9

Even though diabetes rates are almost twice as high in black people as in

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Findings from  
PBMI's 2016  
Pharmacy Trends

whites, black patients may be far less likely to be included in drug safety trials, a recent study suggests.

## Report: Pharmacists dispensing dangerous drug combos

DrugTopics - January 9

Walgreens, CVS Health and other drug chains promised to improve procedures after a *Chicago Tribune* investigation found that pharmacists at several retail chains filled prescriptions with dangerous drug combinations.

## Studies find worrying over- and underuse of medicine worldwide

Reuters - January 8

Up to 70 percent of hysterectomies in the United States, a quarter of knee replacements in Spain and more than half the antibiotics prescribed in China are inappropriate, overused healthcare, researchers said on Monday.

## New 340B drug rule sets drugmaker fines

Formulary Journal - January 9

Consumer health groups are praising Health and Human Services' (HHS) new rule on the Medicaid 340B drug discount program, which sets a ceiling on drug prices.

## Mylan's EpiPen Sales Plan: Schools Today, Everywhere Tomorrow

Bloomberg - January 6

Mylan NV got EpiPen allergy shots stocked in schools across America with free programs and special discounts.

## CVS slashes price of Impax's EpiPen rival

Reuters - January 12

Drugstore chain CVS Health Corp (CVS.N) has cut the price of a generic version of Impax Laboratories Inc's (IPXL.O) emergency allergy injection, a device similar to Mylan NV's (MYL.O) controversial EpiPen.

## Medication Adherence a Problem With in AFib Patients

Drug Discovery & Development - January 10

For patients with atrial fibrillation, the most common form of heart arrhythmia, a main goal of treatment is stroke prevention.

## Medicare to Cover Infiximab Biosimilar

MedPage Today - January 6

Pfizer announced Friday that Medicare has released reimbursement information for the biosimilar Inflectra (infiximab-dyyb).

## Common morning sickness drug may not work

Reuters - January 4

A pill routinely prescribed for morning sickness may not be an effective nausea remedy, researchers say - although not all doctors agree.

## Heartburn Drugs May Raise Risk of Stomach Infections: Study

HealthDay News - January 5

People who take heartburn drugs such as Prilosec and Nexium may be at increased risk of two potentially serious gut infections, a new study suggests.

in ACOs Report  
January 24, 2017  
1:30pm Eastern

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## FDA NEWS

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### FDA Approves New Indication for Eye Drug Lucentis

Managed Care - January 6

The FDA has approved ranibizumab (Lucentis, Genentech) 0.5-mg injection for the treatment of patients with myopic choroidal neovascularization (mCNV), a complication of severe near-sightedness that can lead to blindness.

### New FDA Drug Approvals: Breaking Down the Numbers

Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society - January 4

If a decline in US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals of new pharmaceuticals is a bad sign for the industry, then 2016 was the worst year since 2010.



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