PSG RxWIRE Newsletter – October 27, 2016

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

Drug maker thwarted plan to limit OxyContin prescriptions at dawn of opioid epidemic

STAT - October 26

The warning signs of what would become a deadly opioid epidemic emerged in early 2001.

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Cancer Protection Now Offered In Two Doses Of HPV Vaccine Instead Of Three

Forbes - October 20

Adolescents can now protect themselves from six different types of cancer caused by human papillomavirus with just two shots of the HPV vaccine instead of three.

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SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

VA Shifts To Clinical Pharmacists To Help Ease Patients' Long Waits

Kaiser Health News - October 25

Something astonishing has happened in the past year to outpatient treatment at

the Veterans Affairs hospital here.

The Biggest Spender Doesn't Always Come Out Ahead: Value-Based Outcomes in the US Drug Market

Specialty Pharmacy Times - October 24

Historically, pharmaceutical manufacturers have reaped the benefits of operating independently in pricing and discounting drugs based on volume sold in the United States.

Time For An Overhaul: CMS Wants to Remodel Cancer Payment, Care

Managed Care - October 2016

CMS' Oncology Care Model program is bringing bundled payments to cancer care. With drug costs so high and hard to control, the 195 participating practices will have to figure out other ways to control costs if they want to beat financial benchmarks and earn bonuses.

CMS pivots from Medicare Advantage auto-enrollment for internal review

Healthcare Dive - October 25

The automatic "seamless conversion" process has been criticized for being opaque and confusing to seniors, many of whom have already enrolled in traditional Medicare, and then become enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans without their knowledge or approval, receiving only notification and an opt-out window of 60 days –assuming they actually receive, read and understand that piece of mail, and don't assume it to be a marketing item because it comes from a plan they never contacted.

AHA Calls for Hospital Access to Prescription Drug Rate Info

RevCycle Intelligence - October 13

The American Hospital Association (AHA) recently urged the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to grant hospitals in the 340B Drug Pricing Program more access to prescription drug rate information.

Small Savings For Drugs Made To Mimic Biotech Blockbusters

NPR - October 19

Generic drugs generally cost 80 percent less than brand-name drugs, so hopes were high when a law enacted in 2010 paved the way for competition among the highest-priced drugs of all, known as biologics.

Interchangeability of Biosimilars Under Review

MedPage Today - October 19

As biosimilars enter the pharmaceutical market, physicians will have to decide whether to prescribe these potentially lower-cost drugs for their patients instead of the originator drug or biologic. In some cases, their own recommendation may not even matter.

Average premiums for popular ACA plans rising 25 percent

Washington Post - October 24

Insurers are raising the 2017 premiums for a popular and significant group of health plans sold through HealthCare.gov by an average of 25 percent, more than triple the percentage increase of this year's plans, according to new government figures.

Anti-inflammatory pills tied to heart failure risk

Reuters - October 20

Widely used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are associated with an increased risk of heart failure - even in people without a history of cardiac issues, a recent study suggests.

FDA NEWS

FDA approves Aurobindo's Lunesta generic

Drug Store News - October 26

The Food and Drug Administration has approved Aurobindo Pharma's generic of Lunesta (ezopiclone), the company announced Wednesday. The drug is indicated to treat insomnia.

Pembrolizumab (KEYTRUDA) Checkpoint Inhibitor

FDA - October 24

On October 24, 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved pembrolizumab (KEYTRUDA, Merck & Co., Inc.) for the treatment of patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) whose tumors express PD-L1 as determined by an FDA-approved test.

FDA grants accelerated approval to new treatment for advanced soft tissue sarcoma

FDA - October 19

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today granted accelerated approval to Lartruvo (olaratumab) with doxorubicin to treat adults with certain types of soft tissue sarcoma (STS), which are cancers that develop in muscles, fat, tendons or other soft tissues.