



# Rx WIRE

A weekly service from  
Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

January 19, 2017

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

## Large Employer Health Plans Could Also See Some Impacts From Obamacare Overhaul

Kaiser Health News - January 17



If you think that because you get health insurance through your job at a big company, you won't be affected if Republicans overhaul Obamacare, think again.

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## SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

### Why Trump Faces Stiff Fight to Slash Drug Prices: QuickTake Q&A

Bloomberg - January 13

Pharmaceutical executives briefly celebrated Donald Trump's election to the U.S. presidency, expecting the businessman to be friendlier to their industry than his opponent Hillary Clinton, a tough critic.

### New study: Growing share of drug prices go to rebates, supply chain

Drug Store News - January 18

A new study from the Berkeley Research Group is taking a look at the share of prescription drug spending that's retained by biopharmaceutical companies, generics makers, pharmacy benefit managers, health plans and other supply chain stakeholders.

**PBMI  
WEBINAR**



Findings from  
PBMI's 2016  
Pharmacy Trends

## J&J to Reveal Average Drug Price Increases

Drug Discovery & Development - January 13

Johnson & Johnson plans next month to disclose average price increases of its prescription drugs, as the industry tries to calm the storm over soaring prices.

## Fentanyl Overdoses Are Rising And Science Can't Keep Up

Huffington Post - January 9

Synthetic opioid formulas are evolving at a breakneck pace.

## Heroin resurgence an 'unintended consequence' of attempt to curb OxyContin abuse, study finds

LA Times - January 10

In an attempt to stem abuse of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma spent a decade and several hundred million dollars developing a version of the painkiller that was more difficult to snort, smoke or inject.

## Yes, Commercial Payers Are Adopting Narrow Retail Pharmacy Networks

Drug Channels - January 11

CVS drugstores were booted from the pharmacy networks of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. It's more evidence for preferred and limited pharmacy networks in commercial plans.

## Generics set to undercut blockbusters from Merck, Novartis and Bristol-Myers

FiercePharma - January 17

Several blockbusters are set to take a nosedive this year as patent losses hit Novartis, Merck & Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb and other top pharma companies.

## When is a generic not a generic?

EBNews - January 17

Sometimes, complicated contracts may define some generics as brand name drugs and exclude others from savings, costing employers tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of dollars.

## Can a flu shot wear off if you get it too early? Perhaps, scientists say

STAT - January 12

It can be jarring to see placards advertising "Flu Shots Today" in late July or early August in 80-degree weather.

## No new antidepressants in sight despite growing need, experts warn

Reuters - January 16

It is likely to be at least 10 years before any new generation of antidepressants comes to market, despite evidence that depression and anxiety rates are increasing across the world, specialists said on Wednesday.

## A Nevada woman dies of a superbug resistant to every available antibiotic in the US

STAT - January 12

If it sometimes seems like the idea of antibiotic resistance, though unsettling, is more theoretical than real, please read on.

## New Guidelines Reaffirm Prenatal Folic Acid to Curb Birth Defects

HealthDay News - January 10

Pharmacy Benefit  
in ACOs Report  
January 24, 2017  
1:30pm Eastern  
**FREE!**  
CLICK HERE TO  
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P B Pharmacy Benefit  
M I Management Institute

In a recommendation that reaffirms previous guidelines, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force said that folic acid supplements reduce the risk of neural tube defects.

## FDA NEWS

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### FDA approves generic version of Jazz Pharma's sleep disorder drug

Reuters - January 17

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it had approved the first generic version of Xyrem, Jazz Pharmaceuticals Plc's drug to treat patients with narcolepsy, a kind of sleeping disorder.



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