



Rx WIRE

A weekly service from
Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

December 15, 2016

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

Pharmacy benefit managers face crack down on drug pricing

Healthcare Finance - December 13



The financial future of pharmacy benefit managers is uncertain as payers, legislators and regulators focus on rising drug prices, according to Moody's Investors Service.

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Brand Name Drug Prices Increase Nearly 130 Times Faster Than Inflation

AARP - December 14



Retail prices for brand name prescription drugs widely used by older Americans rose by an average of 15.5% in 2015—almost 130 times faster than the 0.1% general inflation rate—according to a new AARP Public Policy Institute (PPI) report released today.

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SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

Eli Lilly Strikes Partnership to Offer Discounted Insulin

Drug Discovery & Development - December 12

Eli Lilly will launch a new program in conjunction with Express Scripts to offer diabetes patients lower prices for its insulin products.

Wary Drug Makers Move to Fend Off Further Attacks Under Donald Trump

[NYTimes](#) - December 9

If the nation's pharmaceutical executives thought Donald J. Trump would grant them a reprieve from scrutiny over high drug prices, he made them reconsider that idea in the last few days.

Scott Gottlieb now also in the running for Trump's FDA pick

[FierceBiotech](#) - December 13

It seems that president elect Donald Trump wants an investor as the next FDA commissioner, as Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a partner at one of the world's largest venture capital funds, is also now rumored by Reuters to be on his short-list for the top job.

Zetia generics launch sets Merck up for \$1.4B hit to 2017 cholesterol sales

[FiercePharma](#) - December 12

Merck & Co.'s big-selling cholesterol-fighter Zetia is at the end of its exclusive road. The \$2.5 billion seller now faces its first generic competitor, which threatens not only its own revenue, but the blockbuster sales of its combination-med cousin, Vytorin.

Gilead's CEO Apologetic About Sovaldi's \$1,000 Per Pill Price Tag

[Forbes](#) - December 8

Last week at its annual Healthcare Summit, FORBES' Matthew Herper assembled an impressive panel of biopharmaceutical CEOs to discuss the sorry state of the industry's reputation.

Would drugmakers eat costs when their products don't deliver?

[Crain's Chicago Business](#) - December 12

The latest wrinkle in the fight against rising drug prices involves insurers and pharmacy benefit managers asking drugmakers to accept lower prices for the latest medicines emerging from their labs when they don't achieve the desired results.

Medicine's secret: Some drugs won't help most of those who take them

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) - December 13

In an era when a lack of interest in sex is considered a treatable medical disorder, these are the pros and cons for patients seeking a pharmaceutical fix:

New Rules of Engagement: The Challenges Associated with Commercializing Biosimilars

[Drug Discovery & Development](#) - December 7

The US biologic market landscape is undergoing dramatic change. When the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act) was passed in 2013, it amended the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act), creating an abbreviated approval pathway for biological products that are "biosimilar" or "interchangeable" with an FDA-approved biological product.

Study Finds Opioids Not Helpful in Treating Chronic Pain

[Managed Care](#) - December 8

A new study by physicians at the Geisinger Health System in Danville, Pennsylvania, has found that the use of opioid therapy to treat chronic pain is not only ineffective, it can increase the likelihood of more harmful consequences, including death.

FDA NEWS

FDA approves Jardiance to reduce cardiovascular death in adults with type 2 diabetes

FDA - December 2

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved a new indication for Jardiance (empagliflozin) to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death in adult patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease.

Novel Diabetes Drug Approved by FDA

Specialty Pharmacy Times - December 13

Eli Lilly and Company announced the FDA on Monday approved Synjardy XR (empagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride extended-release) for the treatment of patients with type 2 diabetes.

FDA Affirms Bladder Cancer Warning for Pioglitazone

MedPage Today - December 12

The FDA said today that an increased risk of bladder cancer associated with the diabetes drug pioglitazone (Actos and other brands) cannot be ruled out, thus current warnings about the risk will stay on the drug's label.

FDA approves Pfizer ointment for chronic itchy skin condition

Reuters - December 14

A Pfizer Inc (PFE.N) ointment to treat mild to moderate cases of the itchy skin condition eczema, or atopic dermatitis, won U.S. approval for use in patients aged two years and older, the Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday.



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