



# RxWIRE

A weekly service from  
Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

December 22, 2016

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

## It's the same song, but a brand new verse for 2017's drug-pricing debate

FiercePharma - December 21



We won't surprise anyone by saying that Topic No. 1 in pharma this year was drug pricing. We'll give you one guess as to whether 2017 will be more of the same.

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## SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

### From The Right, Critics Hit Paul Ryan's Obamacare Repeal Plan

Forbes - December 20

Opposition is mounting from conservatives against Republican efforts to delay any full repeal of the Affordable Care Act from within the ranks of those who have opposed the law for more than six years.

### 20 states accuse generic drug makers of price fixing

NYTimes - December 15

The attorneys general in 20 states on Thursday accused six generic pharmaceutical companies, including industry giants Teva and Mylan, of a scheme to artificially inflate the prices of an antibiotic and a diabetes drug.

### Obama administration scraps controversial drug pricing proposal

The Hill - December 15

The Obama administration announced Thursday night that it is calling off a controversial initiative to fight high drug prices.

## Hospitals get creative to cut drug costs

FiercePharma - December 19

When Valeant jumped up the price of heart drug Isuprel by 500% last year, MedStar Washington Hospital Center started repackaging ampules, most of which used to be wasted, into 5 doses. It is saving \$1.7 million a year. Another hospital group is getting 8 doses from an ampule for similar savings.

## Gilead and Express Scripts make peace in hep C with 2017 formulary deal

FiercePharma - December 14

It's official: Express Scripts has struck a hepatitis C deal with Gilead Sciences. After two years of stiff-arming the biotech's next-gen meds, the pharmacy benefits manager welcomed the combo pill Harvoni onto its national formulary.

## CVS Health launching an analytics-based initiative to deliver personalized diabetes care

Healthcare Dive - December 14

Throughout healthcare, various stakeholders are turning to data analytics and technology-based solutions to reduce spending on diabetes care and improve health outcomes among diabetics.

## Drugmakers Push Profitable, but Unproven, Opioid Solution

Associated Press and Center for Public Integrity - December 15

Pilloried for their role in the epidemic of prescription painkiller abuse, drugmakers are aggressively pushing their remedy to the problem: a new generation of harder-to-manipulate opioids that have racked up billions in sales, even though there's little proof they reduce rates of overdoses or deaths.

## Better Survival Seen With Statin Use Around Non-Heart Surgery

MedPage Today - December 19

Getting a statin on the day of or day after non-cardiac surgery was associated with better survival afterward, a large VA study showed.

## Lilly, Boehringer Ingelheim launch Lantus follow-on Basaglar

Drug Store News - December 15

Eli Lilly and Co. and Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals on Thursday announced the launch and availability of their Basaglar. The drug is a follow-on insulin to U-100 insulin glargine Lantus and is a long-acting insulin with an amino acid sequence identical to that of Lantus.

# FDA NEWS

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## FDA grants accelerated approval to new treatment for advanced ovarian cancer

FDA - December 19

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today granted accelerated approval to Rubraca (rucaparib) to treat women with a certain type of ovarian cancer.

## FDA issues warning on sedation drugs, general anesthetics

Healio - December 21

Citing the possibility of affecting children's brain development, the FDA announced it is placing a warning on 11 general anesthetic and sedation drugs.

## FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA revises description of mental health side

## effects of the stop-smoking medicines Chantix (varenicline) and Zyban (bupropion) to reflect clinical trial findings

FDA - December 16

Based on a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review of a large clinical trial that we required the drug companies to conduct,<sup>1</sup> we have determined the risk of serious side effects on mood, behavior, or thinking with the stop-smoking medicines Chantix (varenicline) and Zyban (bupropion)\* is lower than previously suspected.



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