



Rx WIRE

A weekly service from
Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

December 8, 2016

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

ViewPoints: Allergan and Express Scripts applaud Novo Nordisk's stance on drug pricing

FirstWord Pharma - December 6



That didn't take long. Less than a week since Allergan CEO Brent Saunders implored pharma to take the initiative to defuse a public debate on drug pricing, Novo Nordisk has become the second player to make a cost pledge.

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SUMMARY OF TOP ARTICLES

House overwhelmingly passes 'Cures' legislation to streamline drug approval

Washington Post - November 30

A wide-ranging bill aimed at expediting the development of new medical treatments passed the House decisively Wednesday evening, overcoming criticism from some health policy experts who said it could put unsafe drugs on the market.

The drug industry's stake in Trumpcare is bigger than you think

STAT - December 2

The upcoming fight over repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act promises to shake up hospitals and insurers, but drug makers also stand to gain — or lose — a lot.

**PBMI
WEBINAR**



**FINDINGS FROM
PBMI'S 2016
TRENDS IN DRUG
BENEFIT DESIGN**

Novo Nordisk becomes second major drug maker to limit price hikes

STAT - December 5

Yet another major drug maker is pledging to limit price hikes.

U.S. Doctors Still Over-Prescribing Drugs: Survey

HealthDay News - December 5

Despite evidence that certain drugs aren't always necessary, doctors are still prescribing these treatments, a new survey of doctors reveals.

US Health Spending Grew Especially Fast Last Year

NBC News - December 2

U.S. health spending always grows but it grew at an especially fast rate last year as more people got health insurance for the first time and as pricey new hepatitis drugs hit the market.

U.S. insurer lobby group seeks delay in 2018 Obamacare deadline

Reuters - December 6

The largest lobbying group for health insurers has asked U.S. lawmakers weighing the fate of Obamacare to push back the due date for 2018 individual insurance submissions to regulators in hopes of obtaining greater clarity on the program's future later on.

Obamacare is not the only insurance plan in trouble

EBNews - December 7

I recently had a short conversation that was somewhat surprising, and maybe very telling. I was having a prescription filled and I spoke briefly with the woman handling my order.

Pfizer blood cancer drug tops standard therapy for untreated patients

Reuters - December 5

Pfizer Inc said on Monday its cancer drug, Bosulif, was found superior to Novartis AG's Gleevec in a late-stage study on untreated patients with a form of blood and bone marrow cancer characterized by abnormal white blood cells production.

F.D.A. Agrees to New Trials for Ecstasy as Relief for PTSD Patients

New York Times - November 29

After three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, C. J. Hardin wound up hiding from the world in a backwoods cabin in North Carolina. Divorced, alcoholic and at times suicidal, he had tried almost all the accepted treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder: psychotherapy, group therapy and nearly a dozen different medications.

Can't buy love? Drug price hikes put sex beyond reach

Associated Press - December 5

Imagine not being able to afford one of life's great pleasures - sex.

Wider Low-Dose Aspirin Use Would Save U.S. \$692 Billion: Study

HealthDay News - November 30

Taking low-dose aspirin daily can reduce older Americans' risk of heart disease and cancer, and lead to significant savings in health care spending, a new study contends.

BENEFIT DESIGN REPORT
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