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A weekly service from Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

MARCH 16, 2017

How Pharma Companies Use 'Citizen Petitions' to Keep Drug Prices High

The Atlantic - March 8

In theory, citizen petitions about drug safety are supposed to be exactly what they sound like: a way for anyone to bring concerns straight to the Food and Drug Administration. In practice, many citizen petitions are filed by none other than pharmaceutical companies themselves—as a way of fighting off a competitor's cheaper generic drug.

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TRENDING NEWS

Legislation to expose PBM rebates filed in Senate

Drug Store News - March 15

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D-Ore., along with Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., on Wednesday introduced legislation that would, for the first time, require Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Medicare to disclose their aggregate rebates provided by drug manufacturers, as well as the amount of those rebates that are passed on to health plans, therefore lowering prices for people who need prescription drugs.

On Obamacare replacement bill, Ryan open to changes

U.S. News & World Report - March 15

House Speaker Paul Ryan signaled Wednesday that the bill he and the Trump administration have backed to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health care law is likely to change as proponents push for its passage in the chamber.

Health insurers often foot bill when drug coupons are used

Managed Care - March 13

Drugmakers and beneficiaries love coupons and patient-assistance programs, but they give PBMs and health plans a headache.

Drug CEO has problem with U.S. patients paying his prices

Bloomberg - March 14

Too many diabetics in the U.S. are inadvertently getting stuck with a big bill, making it imperative that drugmakers and middlemen at the heart of the country's complex pricing system fix the issue before regulators step in, the world's biggest maker of insulin said.

New report shows big spike in prescriptions for EpiPen alternatives

Drug Discovery & Development - March 8

The fallout from Mylan's EpiPen pricing controversy appears to be taking a toll, according to a new analysis.

Good Repatha data for Amgen ahead of FOURIER

BioPharma Dive- March 14

In topline results announced by Amgen yesterday, Repatha (evolocumab) reduced the need for apheresis in patients with high LDL-cholesterol levels who had been given regular apheresis and statin therapies.

FDA NEWS

Ribociclib (Kisqali)

FDA - March 13

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved ribociclib (KISQALI, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.), a cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor, in combination with an aromatase inhibitor as initial endocrine-based therapy for the treatment of postmenopausal women with hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced or metastatic breast cancer..

Did Emflaza's DMD approval expose cracks at the FDA? Lawmakers want to know

FiercePharma - March 15

After lambasting Marathon Pharma for its pricing strategy on a decades-old med recently approved to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Elijah Cummings are turning their fire on the FDA.

Risks of Endo's opioid painkiller outweigh benefits: FDA panel

Reuters - March 14

The benefits of Endo International Plc's long-acting opioid painkiller no longer outweigh its risks, an independent panel to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concluded on Tuesday.

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