



RxWire

A weekly service from Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

MARCH 2, 2017

Orphan drug sales will outpace all other meds, thanks to high prices

STAT - February 28

As payers continue to foot the bill for orphan drugs, sales of these rare disease treatments are forecast to grow 11 percent over the next five years — to \$209 billion. And this is more than twice the expected increase in sales of all other prescription medicines, according to a new analysis.

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A promotional banner for 340B Link. The background is a light blue and white network of nodes and lines. The text is centered and reads: "340B is evolving." in large blue font, "Are you ready to progress with it?" in smaller red font, "CLICK HERE" in red font with a red underline, and "to learn how 340B Link™ can help!" in blue font.

TRENDING NEWS

Trump outlines 5 principles for healthcare reform

Healthcare Dive - March 1

President Donald Trump outlined five principles he wants to see enacted for healthcare reform during a speech to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday evening.

Senate Democrats introduce bill that would allow drug imports

Modern Healthcare - February 28

Democratic senators have introduced a bill that would allow for importing of low-cost medicines from Canada and other nations.

You're overpaying for drugs and your pharmacist can't tell you

[Bloomberg - February 24](#)

Eric Pusey has to bite his tongue when customers at his pharmacy cough up co-payments far higher than the cost of their low-cost generic drugs, thinking their insurance is getting them a good deal.

Liquid pediatric drugs could break the bank; one costs 775 times the generic tablet

[Managed Care - February 24](#)

Comes a new twist in the recent uproar about how pharmaceutical companies are spiking costs for variations of medicines that have been around for decades.

5 ways to rein in medication costs

[EBNews - February 28](#)

The National Business Group on Health is leading the charge to help stem skyrocketing specialty drug costs, which it warns are on track to surpass traditional scripts in the next several years.

Study: Pillbox gadgets do nothing to improve Rx adherence

[MedPage Today - February 27](#)

Three low-cost gadgets didn't help patients stick to their medication schedules, a large study showed.

FDA NEWS

Lenalidomide (Revlimid)

[FDA - February 22](#)

On February 22, 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved lenalidomide (Revlimid, Celgene Corp.) as maintenance therapy for patients with multiple myeloma following autologous stem cell transplant..

FDA gives word that Lexicon has been given approval for telotristat

[FierceBiotech - March 1](#)

Lexicon Pharmaceuticals saw its shares bounce 8% premarket this morning on news out late last night that the FDA had approved its oral med Xermelo (telotristat ethyl) for patients with certain GI tumors suffering from the rare condition known as carcinoid syndrome diarrhea.

FDA approves new diabetes drug combination

[Specialty Pharmacy Times - February 28](#)

Today, the FDA approved once-daily Qtern (10-mg dapagliflozin and 5-mg saxagliptin) to treat type 2 diabetes. The fixed-dose combination drug will provide another oral treatment option for patients with diabetes..

Tests help aid in antibiotic control

[Formulary Journal - February 27](#)

FDA recently approved 2 tests that will aid healthcare providers in determining which antibiotics are needed, leading to better antibiotics management.



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