

Pharma's Blame Game

More Americans than ever are concerned about the rising cost of prescription drugs. In response, drug manufacturers are pointing the finger at every other industry to escape blame and keep profits high.

It's time to stop pointing fingers and come to the table to make prescriptions more affordable and accessible to the patients who need them – but nothing will be done if pharma refuses to even pull up a chair.

The New York Times

It's Time for Pharmaceutical Companies to Have Their Tobacco Moment

"The industry's own explanations — that other entities in America's byzantine health care system are to blame for most price increases, and that its products are expensive and risky to make — are tough to swallow, given drug companies' conspicuous profit margins. Its response to the crisis of soaring drug prices has been meager at best — and duplicitous at worst. Last year, several companies agreed to hold off on planned price increases, but only for six months, and only after President Trump chastised them on Twitter. Those same companies have aggressively resisted both state and federal efforts to enact formal changes to drug pricing rules."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Flip the Script: Drugmakers Blame Middlemen for Price Increases

"Facing pressure over rising drug prices, pharmaceutical companies are pushing a new defense: They aren't raising prices to make more money but rather to pay a greater cut to middlemen in the medicine-supply chain. For years, drugmakers justified price increases by saying they needed them to fund research and development of new products. But lately they have flipped the script."

They blame hospitals:

"Hospitals receive billions of dollars every year in negotiated and mandatory discounts from biopharmaceutical companies while simultaneously increasing the price of these medicines to insurers and patients. In order to make medicines more affordable for patients, we must address the role hospital markups play in driving up medicine costs."

- PhRMA CEO Steve Ubl

They blame insurance companies:

"We need to ensure patients receive more of the benefit of price negotiations between biopharmaceutical companies and payers. It is a problem that more and more Americans are being asked by their insurers to pay cost sharing based on undiscounted list prices, even though insurers may be receiving significant rebates. Providing access to discounted prices at the point-of-sale could dramatically lower patients' out-of-pocket costs."

- PhRMA CEO Steve Ubl

They blame other countries:

"Ultimately, you have to have responsible pricing and access for patients, but setting a price against arbitrary prices where countries discouraged innovation, lost their pharmaceutical industries—they all moved to the United States, the science is being done in the United States for that very reason—we just have to find that balance. But it is a slippery slope."

- Allergan CEO Brent Saunders

BIG PHARMA POINTS THE FINGER AT PRACTICALLY EVERY OTHER INDUSTRY EXCEPT THEMSELVES

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