

The Problem Is Clear: Drug Companies Set Prices Too High

Stop Pricing Out Patients

POLITICO

[Victoria Colliver, March 23, 2018:](#)

"We've seen massive, massive price increases, and shame has not trumped profit. After a while, people get numb to it," said Adams Dudley, a pulmonologist and director of the University of California, San Francisco's Center for Healthcare Value. Indeed, both Valeant and Teva have weathered these controversies before — just not in advance of an actual price hike."

AXIOS

[Sam Baker, March 21, 2018:](#)

*"But the pharmaceutical industry hasn't changed its ways since Trump took office: 20 drugs have seen price hikes of 200% or more since January 2017... These increases, which can be found in an analysis by Pharmacy Benefits Consultants, are in the drugs' list prices, before rebates and discounts are applied. **People with insurance don't pay these full amounts, but price hikes still affect everyone.**"*

WASHINGTON Examiner

[Robert King, March 13, 2018:](#)

*"But several experts and advocacy groups say policies in the administration's latest budget proposal don't tackle the biggest driver of high prices: **Nothing prevents a drugmaker from setting a price at whatever level it wants.**"*

Bloomberg Gadfly

[Max Nisen, March 9, 2018:](#)

*"And **price hikes continue for already expensive newer drugs**.... Drugmakers like to say prices keep rising because pharmacy benefit managers demand ever-bigger discounts for their clients, forcing drugmakers to raise list prices to keep up. **But... drug companies do plenty of price-hiking for drugs such as Revlimid that aren't really discounted.**"*



[Meg Tirrell, March 9, 2018:](#)

“But large increases still happen. Last month alone, Wells Fargo analyst David Maris tracked the 50 biggest price increases on medicines, **the largest of which was a 948.4 percent increase on a drug** from Torrent Pharmaceuticals. And data from Rx Savings Solutions show price increases of less than 10 percent on expensive medicines **can result in adding thousands of dollars to their cost.**”

The New York Times

[Danny Hakim, January 6, 2018:](#)

“A more typical play for drug companies — the Humira play — is to start at a high price and keep raising it ever higher, but incrementally...AbbVie joined a few of its rivals in saying it would limit price increases to single digits this year, and so only raised Humira by another 9.7 percent this month, **roughly four and a half times the inflation rate.** For the drug industry, that counts as generosity.”

POLITICO

[Sarah Karlin Smith, January 3, 2018:](#)

“NEW YEAR, NEW PRICE HIKES — Drug companies began the new year the way they often do — **raising the cost of old drugs...**Allergan **raised the list prices of more than a dozen meds** by 9.5 percent, Jefferies Financial Analyst reported. Insys **raised the price of two drugs** the same amount, while Horizon Pharma **increased the costs of four drugs** by 9.9 percent. Other companies that hiked at least one drug by 9 percent or more included Collegium Pharmaceutical, Synergy Pharmaceuticals, Teva and Supernus Pharmaceuticals, per Jefferies.”



[Leigh Purvis and Dr. Stephen Schondelmeyer, December 2017:](#)

“Retail prices for widely used prescription drugs increased, on average, between 2006 and 2015...The findings of this report are attributable **entirely to drug price growth among brand name and specialty drugs,** which more than offset often substantial price decreases among generic drugs. If these trends continue, **older Americans—particularly those on fixed incomes—will be unable to afford the prescription drugs that they need,** leading to poorer health outcomes and higher health care costs in the future.”



[Walecia Konrad, June 26, 2017:](#)

"As PBMs negotiate more discounts and rebates, pharmaceutical companies have been raising prices at a record rate, in part to preserve the industry's high profit margins."

Bloomberg

[Robert Langreth, Michael Keller and Christopher Cannon, June 29, 2016:](#)

"List price increases "are accelerating across the board," said Jim Yocum, senior vice president for Connecture. His analysis found that brand drug list prices, on average, rose 11.5 percent a year since 2012. "Rebates can't keep up."