

Impact of Rx Pricing Patterns on Premiums and Out-of-Pocket Costs

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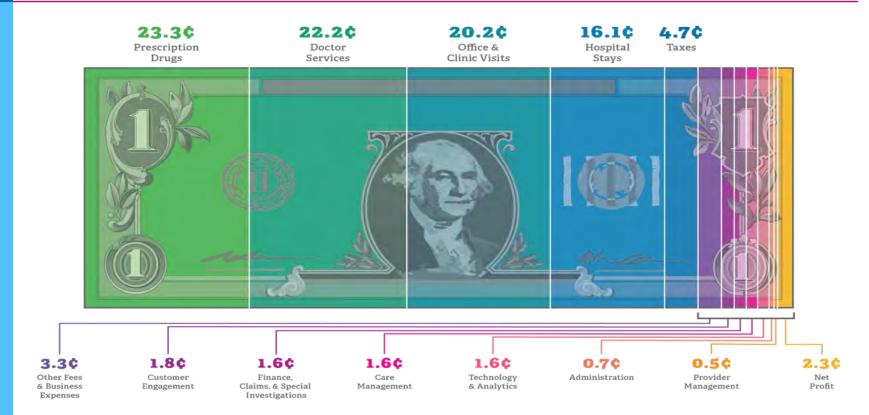
Nevada Interim Legislative Committee on Health Care

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Agenda Item VI B (HEALTH) Meeting Date: 09-24-18



Where Does Your Health Care Dollar Go?





Total Rx Spending = Retail + Non-Retail

\$450
billion in
total
drug
spending
in 2016*

\$323 billion in retail spending

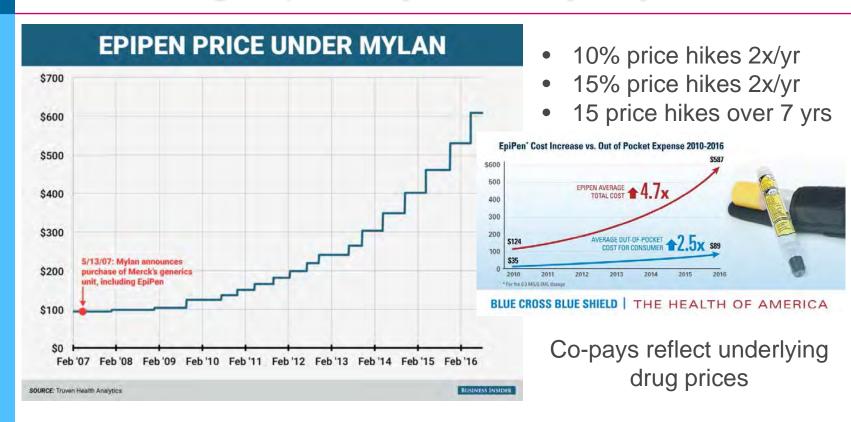
\$127 billion nonretail spending

In general, no rebates on:

- Generic drugs
- Non-preferred brand drugs
- Many single source off-patent brand drugs
- Many first-in-class drugs
 (until me-too hits the market)
- Physician-administered drugs (IV, injectables, high-cost specialty Rx)

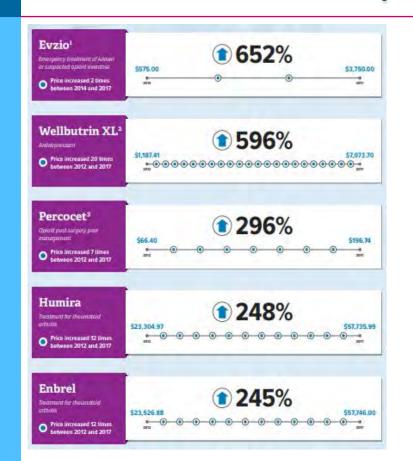
For many drugs, the list price <u>IS</u> the price.

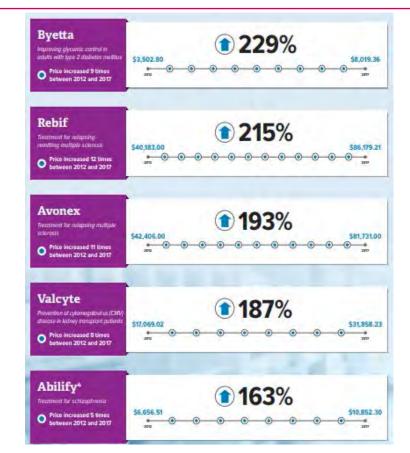
Prices can go up at any time – by any amount





Rebates cannot keep pace with price hikes







Copay Coupons Mask Price Hikes



Federal Government's View: Coupons = Kickback AHIP



Coupons are prohibited in federal health care programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

- Considered a kickback, because they induce a patient to take a certain drug.
- Many studies show they increase use of higher cost drugs, especially when generic or brand alternatives are available.

Customer Sacron 877-324-6755

R Pharmacy Coups



Massachusetts vs New Hampshire



In a 2017 study on copay coupons, the researchers took neighboring states that had differing approaches to copay coupons to analyze the impact coupons have on generic utilization and drug spending.†

	Massachusetts	New Hampshire
Coupons Allowed?	NO - Massachusetts banned the use of coupons statewide	YES - New Hampshire allows coupon use in non-federal programs
Drugs Not Offering Coupons	When branded drugs did not offer coupons, use of generic alternatives was equivalent in both states	
Drugs Offering Coupons to All Patients		 When branded drugs offered coupons, use of generic alternatives was 3.4% LOWER This amounted to \$700 million more in drug spending - \$2.9 billion over five years
Drugs That Offer Coupons Among Patients <65 yrs		 When branded drugs offered coupons for this age group, use of generic alternatives was 6.3% LOWER Increased spending could reach close to \$6 billion

[†] When Discount Raise Costs: The Effect of Copay Coupons on Generic Utilization.



Solutions that Save Patient & Taxpayer

- Departurers could lower drug prices so that patients can afford their medications.
- Policymakers could prohibit copay coupons when there is a less expensive and equally effective alternative medication.
- Policymakers could require drug makers to be transparent in their use of coupons, third party payments or patient assistance programs that steer patients toward certain types of coverage.
- Protect and expand tools that foster competition and lower drug costs (e.g., formulary management to incent price negotiation).
- Increase transparency in how drug companies set, and why they raise, prices.
- Develop an infrastructure for independent reporting of value/comparative effectiveness.

Drug prices are too high.
You shouldn't need a coupon to afford a life-saving medication.



Thank you





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