



FOCUS ON

PHARMACY COSTS

DID YOUR DOCTOR GET MONEY FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY?

More than **52,000** New York doctors received payments from pharmaceutical and medical device companies from August 2013 to December 2014. That's **76%** of all New York doctors.



In total, those doctors received **\$289 million**. That is second only to California.

The numbers come from ProPublica, an independent, non-profit investigative newsroom that tracks the financial ties between doctors and medical companies.

What's at stake?

While there's nothing inherently wrong with doctors accepting money from the medical industry — many times the money is payment for promotional speaking, consulting, business travel, meals, and the like — new analysis shows doctors who receive these payments tend to prescribe drugs differently than their colleagues who don't. And, on average, the more money they receive, the more brand-name medications they prescribe.

Doctors who got money from drug and device makers—even just a meal—prescribed a higher percentage of brand-name drugs overall than doctors who didn't. ProPublica's analysis showed doctors who received industry payments were **2 to 3 X** as likely to prescribe brand-name drugs at exceptionally high rates as others in their specialty.



Doctors who received more than \$5,000 from companies in 2014 typically had the highest brand-name prescribing percentages.

Why it Matters

Numerous studies show that generics, which must meet rigid Food and Drug Administration standards, work as well as name brands for most patients. Brand-name drugs typically cost more than generics. Pharmaceutical manufacturers to induce physicians to prescribe new, often costly, drugs over generics. Doctors are now promoting a bill (S.3419-B/A.2834-B) that would override health insurance prescription coverage provisions, effectively neutralizing health plan policies that require patients to try less costly medications before accessing more expensive medications. That's good for some drug makers and doctors, but not always good for consumers.

OPPOSE S.3419-B/A.2834-B