



FOCUS ON

PHARMACY COSTS

A new analysis released by Reuters found that major drug companies have aggressively raised prices for widely used medications over the past five years – in some cases by **more than doubling the listed costs**. While the pharmaceutical industry would like for us to think there are just a few outliers, this new analysis proves that this problem is much more pervasive than they would have you believe and why we **must achieve transparency**.

Exclusive: Makers took big price increases on widely used U.S. drugs

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“...Prices for four of the nation’s top 10 drugs increased more than 100 percent since 2011, Reuters found. Six others went up more than 50 percent. Together, the price increases on drugs for arthritis, high cholesterol, asthma and other common problems added billions in costs for consumers, employers and government health programs...

“Routine price increases by bigger players may draw less attention, but they add up. Sales for the top 10 drugs went up 44 percent to \$54 million in 2014, from 2011, even though prescriptions for the medications dropped 22 percent, according to IMS Health data.

“At the top of the list was AbbVie Inc. (ABBV.N), which raised the price of arthritis drug Humira more than 126 percent, Reuters found. Next were Amgen Inc. (AMGN.O) and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd (TEVA.TA), which raised prices for arthritis treatment Enbrel and multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone by 118 percent.”

Read more: <http://reut.rs/25Gg4bY>

Top selling U.S. drug prices over five years

Prices rose 54 percent to 126 percent.

DRUG (COMPANY)	PRICE*		PRICE GROWTH
	Dec. 31, 2010	Present	
Humira (AbbVie) 40 mg/0.8 ml pre-filled syringes	\$1,676.98	\$3,797.10	126.4%
Enbrel (Amgen) 50 mg/ml subcutaneous sol.	\$427.24	\$932.16	118.2%
Copaxone (Teva) 20 mg/ml subcutaneous sol.	\$3,025.04	\$6,593.00	118.0%
Crestor (AstraZeneca) 10 mg tablets	\$350.17	\$745.41	112.9%
Abilify (Otsuka) 10 mg tablets	\$454.07	\$891.97	96.4%
Lantus Solostar (Sanofi SA) 100 units/ml subcutaneous sol.	\$191.96	\$372.76	94.2%
Advair Diskus (GlaxoSmithKline) 250/50 inhalation discs	\$199.90	\$334.63	67.4%
Remicade (Johnson & Johnson) 100 mg IV powder for solution	\$657.87	\$1,071.48	62.9%
Neulasta (Amgen) 6 mg/0.6 ml subcutaneous sol.	\$3,320.00	\$5,155.65	55.3%
Nexium (AstraZeneca) 10 mg oral packets	\$162.55	\$250.94	54.4%

* Reflects wholesale acquisition prices before volume-related rebates and other discounts. Prices are based on most commonly prescribed dose.

Source: Truven Health Analytics

S. Culp, 30/03/2016



“Pharmaceutical ‘companies have complete control over pricing in the U.S.’”

– Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center oncologist Peter Bach