HEOR NEWS

A diverse collection of relevant news briefs from the global HEOR (health economics and outcomes research) community.

1 New CMS Pay Model Targets Soaring Drug Prices (Modern Healthcare)

The Trump administration has accelerated its efforts to bring prescription drug costs under control, announcing the first mandatory Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pay model. Speaking at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, President Donald Trump introduced an aggressive proposal from Health and Human Services (HHS) to drive down prescription drug rates paid by Medicare Part B by indexing them to the much lower prices paid by other advanced countries and changing the way physicians are paid for administering those drugs.

https://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20181025/NEWS/181029944

2 AbbVie's CLL Drug Venclyxto Too Expensive for NHS, Says NICE (pharmaphorum)

NICE has said AbbVie's Venclyxto (venetoclax), in combination with development partner Roche's MabThera/Rituxan (rituximab), is not a cost-effective use of NHS resources as a treatment for a kind of leukemia. The cost-effectiveness body said in first draft guidance that the combination should not receive regular NHS funding in relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) in adults.

https://pharmaphorum.com/news/abbvies-cll-drug-venclyxto-too-expensive-for-nhs-says-nice/

3 Minnesota Becomes First State to Sue Major Insulin Makers Over Price Gouging (Pharmalot)

In the latest sign of anger over the cost of insulin, the Minnesota attorney general on Tuesday filed a lawsuit accusing the three largest manufacturers — Eli Lilly, Sanofi and Novo Nordisk — with deceptively raising prices, the first state to go to court over the issue.

https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2018/10/16/minnesota-sues-insulin-makers/?fbclid=IwAR2SJVCehwzfgyS1ygS7eXiBIAupJxrUV6KGPI3INA2DrkSHieE0uApu0FE

4 Huge Variations Between Countries in Time for Reimbursement Decisions on New Cancer Drugs (EurekAlert!)

Some European countries take more than twice as long as others to reach health technology assessment (HTA) decisions to reimburse new cancer drugs following their approval by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The average decision time is longer than one year in some countries, according to a study reported at ESMO 2018 Congress.

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-10/esfm-hvb101818.php

5 Pfizer CEO Says Company to Return to Drug Price Increases "as Normal" Starting in January, Despite Pressure from Trump (FirstWord Pharma)

Pfizer CEO Ian Read said during the company's third-quarter earnings call that it will likely go back to "business as normal" for drug price increases at the start of next year. In July, Pfizer rolled back on planned price hikes for certain drugs after US President Donald Trump had taken aim at the company and others for raising prices on their prescription products.

https://m.firstwordpharma.com/pfizer-ceo-says-company-return-drug-price-increases-normal-starting-january-despite-pressure-trump

6 Amgen Cuts Price of Cholesterol Drug Repatha (PharmaLive)

Amgen Inc, looking to boost use of its potent cholesterol drug Repatha, has cut the medication's US list price by 60% to $5,850, the US biotechnology company said in October. Repatha and rival drug Praluent from partners Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc and Sanofi SA were launched in 2015 at list prices of more than $14,000 a year. Sales of both — members of a class known as PCSK9 inhibitors that dramatically lower bad LDL cholesterol — have been constrained by onerous roadblocks to patient access by insurers looking to limit spending on the expensive drugs. Amgen's move "is clearly focused on helping patients afford the medicine at the pharmacy counter," said Murdo Gordon, the company's head of commercial operations.

https://www.pharmalive.com/amgen-cuts-price-of-cholesterol-drug-repatha-by-60-percent/

7 FDA Clears the First Consumer Genetic Test for How Well your Medications May Work — With Caveats (STATNews)

The US Food and Drug Administration has cleared the first DNA test meant to be marketed directly to consumers to help them determine how well certain drugs may work for them. The test was developed by 23andMe and, as with other tests from the consumer genetics giant, customers will be able to simply mail in a saliva sample to get results.

https://www.statnews.com/2018/10/31/fda-clears-23-and-me-genetics-test-drug-effectiveness/