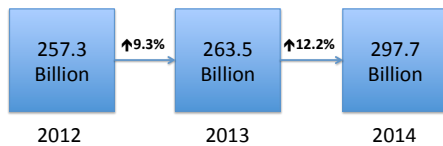


Prescription Drug Pricing

We can't afford our prescriptions

Betty Chang, MDCM, PhD
New Mexico American College of Physicians, Governor
Professor of Internal Medicine
University of New Mexico

U.S. Prescription Drug Cost/Health Care Expenditures



Dijulio B. Kaiser health tracking poll: August 2015. Kaiser Family Foundation: 17 September 2015.

Patient Burden of Costs

- 18% of patients pay out of pocket
- Medicare/Medicaid patients were more likely to manage costs by not taking medications
- Adults living between 139-400% FPL were more likely to ask for lower cost prescriptions

Cohen. HCHS Data Brief. 2015. Jan;(184):1-8.

Pricing examples

Drug	Cost Today
Epipen	\$614-697
Albuterol inhaler	\$55-60
Qvar steroid inhaler	\$205-227

After a Heart Attack

Drug	Walmart	Smith's	Walgreen	Sam's Club	Target
Metoprolol ER	19.65	23.58	27.91	38.06	23.78
Lisinopril	4.00	7.04	5.00	6.14	9.19
Aspirin	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Clopidogrel	8.70	18.28	87.03	18.28	71.98
Atorvastatin	12.11	10.63	14.15	12.11	60.64
TOTAL	\$44.71	\$59.78	\$134.30	\$74.84	\$165.8

Take Away Points

- Prescription drug prices are rising rapidly
- Transparency in cost of production, research and development, and marketing
- Flexibility to negotiate volume discounts and bulk purchasing
- Policies to increase competition for brand-name and generic sole-source drugs
