

Oregon Drug Price Transparency Program

Exhibit 1: Questions from consumers received by DCBS through Dec. 7, 2021.

NOTE 1: There is light editing for readability. Names of consumers, family members, and private businesses were removed, except for drug manufacturers.

NOTE 2: The term "donut hole" refers to a coverage gap in Medicare drug plans created by drug plan limitations.

Why are CRITICAL "life saving" drugs set at such a high cost to the patients who need them to stay alive and/or protected?

Over the years, most medications I use are not listed on the health insurance drug formulary or the drug tiers other than a few generic medications I take. I pay more for brand medications that are effective for my health conditions. I understand reasonable inflation costs. What is difficult to understand is a generic medication costing \$45.00 for a month and the brand medication is over \$1,000.00 a month. The same medications have been around for over thirty years. I started with a brand drug, when a generic drug was introduced the brand medication cost continues to rise making medications unattainable due to cost.

What can be done to lower the cost of prescription medications?

Why doesn't state and federal governments allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices? After the Affordable Care Act legislators claimed that they would come back to dealing with Rx prices but they never did.

Why am I forced to choose between paying for my live saving prescriptions and paying for food for my family? Why are these prices so high and out of reach for a vast number of people?

Why have the prices for life-extending drug such as insulin (discovered 100 years ago in 1921) increased astronomically in the last 20 years? What can be done to allow more companies into the market so that prices can be affordable?

How are we to report increases in the price of a prescription medicine when the pharmacist says it's illegal for him to tell the consumer the price/cost?

Pharma is price-gouging us for record corporate profits because we bought the lie that all regulations & taxation is bad.

It appears that once a drug is labeled therapeutic, providing proven results to a patient in solving medical issues, and improving quality of life, the price is jacked up. There should be no discussion regarding dispensing these medications. Is there a way to compile a list of these medications to allow access beyond cost to anyone? The pharmaceutical companies had their chance to be the leader with designer drugs, they blew it so a public agency needs to regulate it.

Why does 5-fluorouracil cream keep going up in price? It is generic and old, i.e., has been around a long time.

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When is the USA going to manufacture all the drugs here, and not overseas? Why does Canada have cheaper drugs for consumers? Why do the drugstores have such power to buy out other drugstores to have a monopoly on purchasing drugs from manufacturers and charging outrageous costs to insurance companies? Why are outrageous costs to insurance companies, being applied to consumers earlier that fall into the donut hole category [coverage gap in Medicare drug plans created by drug plan limitations]?

When will we have a single payer system for all medical care for all citizens?

This is the same question I have regarding ALL healthcare issues: When does PROFIT stop overriding PEOPLE?

Why are corporations allowed to PROFIT on the MISFORTUNES of others, misfortunes that HAVE to be addressed?

Why are insulins so expensive? There must be some way to reduce the cost of insulin as there are so many people dependent upon its use for their very life!

There are so many other drugs that prices are ridiculous. Why is it a discount program, or any Pharmacy Assistance Program, can get the drugs oftentimes for free while getting medications through insurance is so expensive. Why can't they just balance the two out and give everyone a smaller price??

Insurance agents tell you your Rx is covered under formularies. Never mention what level, what hoops you or your doctor needs to jump through first, what your copay will be. Some insurances refuse although the previous insurance you had the past year approved. After 6 months my insurance finally approved. I had 6 months of out-of-pocket expenses.

Seems we need insurance police when it comes to insurance companies not approving medication that they list on their formulary when you signed up. My doctor prescribes who are they to question my doctor?

Not very transparent!

My prescription drug prices took a huge hike when Trump took office! Why can't those hikes be reduced?

Why do the prices increase well above the inflation rates when the drugs are made in 3rd world countries? The drugs are produced in substandard factories with many, many cases of cross contamination.

Why is it that my medications sometimes come from two different manufacturers and one doesn't work as good as the other. When I bring it up it doesn't go anywhere and I get looked at like I am an idiot. The problem is I'm not the only one to say anything!! Or notice!!

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Why don't doctors and/or pharmacists provide more visibility into potential drug pricing prior to prescribing or disbursing medicine? Why do insurance companies get to make decisions about which medicines are "clinically equivalent," rather than the prescribing doctor? (Especially in situations where the two medicines, although potentially targeting the same underlying condition, aren't identical?) Why do insurance companies cover certain doses of the same medicine and not others?

Why is there so much disparity in prices between different pharmacies? Why won't a pharmacist give a customer a price quote on a prescription?

How can Oregon make brand-name prescription drug prices lower?
How can Oregon make any prescription drug prices lower?

Why are they so much more here than any other country?

Why is it appropriate or fair for life sustaining medications to cost more than an electric bill or more than a house payment?

How do you expect the average person to be able to pay for these if they lose their job or get a job that does not have health coverage?

Why are pharmacies allowed to charge more than what the cost is?

Why is one pharmacy \$300 for a prescription while another pharmacy is only \$60 for the same manufacturer, same dose, same delivery method?

I take Ibrance, a breast cancer drug, and my co-pay is \$2,600 per month. The retail price is \$12,000. Why is this drug and other cancer drugs so high?

Why is there no regulation on prescription prices. Recently a pharmacy bought out my pharmacy and transferred all customer records. We received OPDP discounts at our old pharmacy. The other pharmacy is not in the program at this time. Therefore, they are gouging customers with prices 3x what we paid before. They say they will be in the OPDP program as of January 1, 2022, but in the meantime, they are making a lot of money off the prescriptions they are filling. Seniors and people in general should not have to shop around to maintain reasonable drug prices. This pharmacy should be reprimanded or fined for what they are doing.

Why are they so overpriced. Why isn't Armour thyroid covered under Medicare. Why doesn't the government do something to make prices lower, especially under Medicare and the like?

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Prescription drug prices are a mystery to the vast majority of Oregonians. As we all know, the out of pocket cost of a medication isn't solely determined by the set "price," rather it's a complex interaction of deductibles, out of pocket maximums, etc. Given this system, how is the State of Oregon working towards ensuring Oregonians aren't taken advantage of by drug manufacturers, pharmacies and insurance companies? Not all economically disadvantaged community members are eligible for Medicaid, and many don't opt into the pricey plans (that frankly offer catastrophic coverage at best, at least in the more affordable, lower tiers) offered on the marketplace. Uninsured or underinsured individuals may not be able to afford medication at all. Does the State of Oregon plan to enact measures to insulate our most vulnerable community members from runaway drug prices? How accessible will that system be? Will it be similar to a discount program?

Why have the pharmaceutical companies been let go for so long and make these medicines out of the reach of so many?

Does the state have any control over what tier insurance companies place drugs in when the drugs have been around for years and cost next to nothing to make?

Can the state do anything about the fact that the drug companies claim they need the hike in costs to pay for R&D but everyone knows they spend far more on advertising. If federal tax dollars are used in part for R&D, the government should at some level be able to cap the increases.

I lost my job due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. I was an aircraft mechanic and certified welder for a small company. We were doing contract work for a large company. What we were building was major parts for a company in China. My job died instantly. Couple of weeks later the U.S. STOCK MARKET CRASHED and I lost my 401K. Was forced to retire on Social Security. My income reduced drastically. My wife has been medically disabled for years. Has had 16 major surgeries. Eight of them on her low back. She also has heart issues and one of her meds was \$800 a month and Medicare and our insurance covered very little of it then. We had to quit buying it. She has many other medications as well as I. We are struggling. And now with gas, food, electricity, natural gas, taxes and everything else going up, we decide whether food or medicine at times. I am a strong Republican and YES I BLAME 99 percent of this on BIDEN AND FRIENDS but Oregon is no help either. I was born in Oregon almost 69 years ago and I must say that this State is really beginning to take its toll on its CITIZENS. PLEASE STEP IN AND HELP US!

Why can insurance stop paying or reduce coverage on prescriptions I need?

Why is insulin so high?! Why are EpiPens so high? Why are life saving needed items cost prohibitive? Why do I have to help my parents with medicine costs on Medicare, so they can afford rent and not be homeless?

This is rhetorical, because it could have been changed if included in recent pending federal legislation: Why is Medicare prohibited from negotiating drug prices, specifically on so-called designer drugs? Why are Medicare recipients prevented from taking advantage of any cost saving options offered by drug manufacturers?

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I don't understand why my medications for multiple sclerosis are too expensive for people with MS. ---- Way too expensive, even with insurance.

Why can't Medicaid/Medicare barter for better prices? Who does this help?

I don't have a question, but rather, I have a comment. Drug prices continue to rise because the system allows insurance companies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers to take so much money from pharmaceutical companies through the co-pay accumulator/maximizer program. By allowing those programs to continue, it drives prices up. Drug prices are too high, but by not controlling certain programs/practices, drug prices will continue to rise. Insurance companies have experienced incredible savings during COVID-19, but they have not passed those savings on - rather, they have continued to raise their premiums and collect huge amounts of money from pharmaceutical companies through the co-pay accumulator/maximizer programs.

How are you calculating if and how transparency about drug prices translates to lower consumer costs? How is this information being shared with the public?

How can there be such a big difference in price between my insurance and discount programs? How can there be such huge differences in price between competing pharmacies?

Here is a great example in the news. The same issue is happening with retail pharmacies that price gouge seniors in the "donut hole" [coverage gap in Medicare drug plans created by drug plan limitations] and the uninsured. Charging \$400.00 for something they charge insurance companies \$30.00. Seniors should have the same rights as veterans and deserve protection from the greedy corporate dirt bags that prey on old people in a medical crisis. Grandma has to eat kibbles & bits to afford her meds. One of the topics we need to cover are the accomplishments Oregon has made with high cost of drugs. How many years has this gone on?

[Email included link to article: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-complaint-against-professional-compounding-centers-america-inc>]

Another question we would like answered: How much has Oregon spent at the state level on prescription drug prices transparency - staff, meetings, attorneys, IT staff, etc.?

Why are drug prices within in my Medicare Advantage Plan going up every year? We are on Medicare. Can the insurance company do this without oversight?

How can we help patients on Medicare in particular to afford their medications? These patients are typically on more medications at higher cost, but usually live on fixed incomes that limit their abilities to afford the best available treatments for them.

Why can't we provide basic Rx for everyone?

No one should have to decide between eating and having insulin...

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Please exclude prescription drugs from the CAT tax.
Why are drug companies allow to manipulate their drug prices so that they go up when people need them most? Why aren't consumers protected better?
Why do brand names drugs cost so much more than generic?Why isn't it acknowledged by legislators that generic drugs are not necessarily as effective as brand name?
Why does insurance no longer pay anything for the majority of our prescriptions? Why hasn't Xarelto's patent expired and a generic been offered?
Why is it that each pharmacy puts a different price on the same drug?
Why do drug prices vary so much between pharmacies?
Why are they so high here?
Why are our prices so much higher than other countries? Why are life-changing and life-saving medications often so expensive that the people who need them cannot afford them? How can prices be so outrageously high that people must choose between their medications, a place to live (rent or mortgage), or even their health?
UNPACK THIS ISSUE PLEASE! Why is DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG ISSUES allowed in Oregon? WHY do I actually need to resort to in-depth research of the sponsors of "prescription drug prices and availability" broadcast advertising to get the TRUTH about political maneuvering designed to benefit Big Pharma and/or protect health insurance providers from having to actually PAY for patients' care? I am LUCKY that I do not have to take any prescriptions at all. I am LUCKY that I know how to dig deep into broadcast advertising relating to this hot button issue to find out WHO IS SIGNING THE CHECKS when that advertising is WRONGFULLY targeted toward especially SENIORS who may not have the ability to determine the agenda behind those ads - ESPECIALLY when seniors are featured in these DECEPTIVE ads! Oregon - WHY ARE YOU ALLOWING DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING? WHY ARE THESE ADS ALLOWED TO BE SHOWN WHEN THEY DO NOT HAVE TRANSPARENCY AS TO WHO IS PAYING FOR THEM?????
Why are they so high? It is crazy to pay \$600 for one month of one medication.
I take several different medications on a regular basis for blood pressure, depression, and low-T. Since I have not seen any major studies showing an increase in drug prices, why is this up for discussion at all?

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One reason the price of prescriptions has skyrocketed over the last few years, is because of the media allowing drug companies to advertise over television and radios. Isn't it supposed to be that a bona fide physician is making choices for each patient's needs, what drug they may need for their symptoms? Billions of dollars are spent by these Big Pharma companies to choose for a medical doctor to what drug they need for their patient. I have COPD end stage. Just one of my many prescriptions costs the public over \$600 per month and it's plastered all over media these days! They use big name entertainers to do their misleading diagnosis of a drug to convince us that we need to be taking this celebrity's drug just the same way they do with other merchandise promoted! If we would impose like our country to the north (who doesn't allow any drug commercials), they would save billions on advertising and use that money for research. Not only would the price of drugs go down, we may not have as many lobbyists in congress handling out favors!

Why are insurance companies and Medicare taking so long to reimburse pharmacies which drives up costs?

Why are well established drugs (like insulin, EpiPens, and blood thinners) having large price increases on a regular basis? What relief is available to people who cannot pay for prescriptions they need?

With all the ads on TV helping these companies make money, why are we paying so much for research compared to other countries?

Why do drug companies get public funds when they don't help those in need?

Why can pharmaceutical companies directly market to doctors and how do I know if my doctor is being influenced by them?

Why don't the states join together for lower prices and transparency? What fines and enforcement will be initiated for manufacturers that do not comply? I feel the fines imposed by some states mainly hurt new manufacturers entering the market while large pharma has repeatedly been found guilty and paid the penalties.

Why are drugs almost free in other countries when the same exact drug cost is out of sight in the U.S.?

Why aren't they free?

Why are insulin prices so high?
Why do people have to go into debt to buy medication that keeps them ALIVE?

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Why isn't there more being done to control the price inflation? Why are insurance companies allowed to tier prescriptions based on profitability? How can insurance companies not provide an option for tier 1 prescriptions? Why is the United States still allowing the gouging of insulin prices? Why isn't there more competition allowed to bring down the cost of insulin? Why does it feel like the price you pay depends on how much time you have to spend on the phone negotiating prices or scouring the internet for coupons? Why aren't we adopting and learning from other countries with much more successful prescriptions programs and availability? When will this get better?

I take a medication for narcolepsy and post concussion syndrome that makes my brain work correctly, so I can still work and be a productive member of society. It's a stimulate drug that has been abused by people who take it for non-medical reasons. In the past 30 years my dosage has never changed and I've never felt like I needed a higher dose. This medication has changed my life for the better, but there's a huge stigma associated with taking it. A friend once said to me, "When addicts take this drug their life becomes worse, but when you take the same drug your life becomes better." It's things like being forced to plan vacations around my medication refill dates so I don't run out while I'm out of town. It's just too difficult and too complicated to attempt to get a refill at a different pharmacy. It's a huge hassle, but I follow the rules. I wish there was a 'Trusted Traveler' prescription ID card I could apply for that would identify me as a "low risk patient" just like there is for air travel for airport security.

I have a prescription for RESTASIS which is for a dry eye condition. Without it I have painful eyes and difficulty seeing. It costs me \$24 a month even though I have prescription insurance. I know the drug has been around a long time. How come it is not available in a generic version?

I have been told that if a pharmaceutical company changes the formula slightly that it affects the time that a generic version can come on the market. Is that true? If so, that has to be a ploy by the manufacturer to keep the generic version off of the market.

Why is insulin so expensive when the original patent was given to them for free? Simply adding buffers or a little saline does not constitute a whole new medicine.

What are lawmakers afraid of?

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Why does the price of a medication change from pharmacy to pharmacy? Not only does a person have to bear the high cost of a medicine, but also the distribution store adds additional costs over & above the profit margin that is already set high. Why is there not a ceiling set on the amount of profit made on a medicine? I understand the cost of ingredients fluctuates & may make the cost go up; those costs are understandable. What is not is the profits made on medications when first released & there aren't generic alternatives; that a pill may cost two cents to make and has a price set at five dollars going out the door. I'm referring to the first profit set - it continues to increase as each distributor adds profits above the initial profit margins set between the maker & the distributor. This continues as that same medicine gets closer to the end user! By the time the pill that cost \$0.02 to make, the cost to the person that needs the medication is up to \$18.00 a pill. This is embarrassing to me; I believe in making a profit - this situation however is greed with no thought to what that will mean to the person that needs it. Where in the above scenario is there any positive outcomes for the end user? Economically, more people (especially those who are not upper middle class) are retired & the larger population of people who are well below middle class level (who feel fortunate if they can pay their monthly bills every month) are the ones that have to make decisions regarding either using the medication or not eating a meal each day. Others will turn a utility off for 2 to 4 months in order to pay for a year's worth of medicine then turn the utility back on. Many people who qualify for aid will not apply for aid due to the stigma associated with requesting aid; not only because of self shame but also because of the way they're treated during the entire process.

Is there a way to get help with the cost of inhalers? The price after insurance is over \$300 a month for 1 inhaler. I am on a fixed income.

How is it even possible that some newer drugs can cost over \$3,000 a month?!

Why are some drugs so expensive and others so cheap.

Drug manufacturers are always offering help to some people but not others for people who can't afford their ridiculous prices. Why not just make the prices more fair for everyone?

Why not require experimental drugs to have continued trials after they are approved?

With respect to Humira, why not issue the first dose to see how a patient would tolerate it? Not ship 4-6 doses that can't be returned even if unopened. Is it about healing people? Or is it about selling drugs?

Why isn't there a cap on the percentage a drug's price can be raised?

Why for so long have drug makers been able to scam the system and charge more for drugs here than in other countries?

Why when they get federal aid do they still charge exorbitant prices for newly developed drugs, many of which are just slight formulary changes or changes to delivery?

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Why will the government not place reasonable price controls on pharmaceutical companies and/or require insurers to negotiate lower prices?

Why are they so high? Why can't they be made more affordable?

Why are they so high when they're cheaper in other countries?

Why are prescription drugs unnecessarily marked up to charge patients exorbitant prices that are many times more than the drug costs to produce and/or purchase?

Why do insurance companies keep buying up pharmacies? So, customers are stuck going through mail order with prices that are non-negotiable?

How can I close the "donut hole" [coverage gap in Medicare drug plans created by drug plan limitations]?

Why is Big Pharma allowed to gouge us so much?

When you are in Social Security and Medicare age brackets; and some prescriptions are in the \$400-\$600 range; and you were forced in to retirement due to COVID-19; and your retirement was basically wiped out when the stock market crashed; and your insurance and Medicare won't pay for much; and it puts your life at risk. What are we supposed to do? We got like a \$12 increase on our Social Security so that helped - NOT AT ALL; WE SERIOUSLY NEED A LOT OF HELP JUST TO PAY OUR BILLS LET ALONE FIGHT FOR MEDICINES TO HELP PRESERVE OUR LIVES!!!!!!

Why is my prescription now thousands of dollars more expensive than it was 5 years ago when I started taking it?

Why are drug companies allowed to use benefit programs and leave me in financial limbo, dependent on their program, instead of offering medications that people need to survive at a reasonable cost?

In long term care facilities, there is a disconnect between what a doctor orders for the patient and what an insurance companies covers.

Physicians don't always have access to an insurance company's formulary. They order the medication they think is appropriate and the patient learns on their bill that the medication wasn't covered and is very costly.

Many patients are then obligated to pay for the drug privately, when often times a generic drug could be used (and covered) instead. If the pharmacy can take the time to recontact the physician for a therapeutic substitute, the prescription would be covered. (This is a timely and costly step).

What can be done about this?

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Why do drug companies not offer generics for brand medications one must take for a lifetime? Also, why do different insurance companies put the same exact medications in different tier levels?

Why and who has set these prices for the meds that are outrageous and not priced for folks to keep there health as well as they would like? They need to make choices for meds, heat, food, personal needs, and often times go without due to high cost of needed meds. Why has this been ok?This has also cost the programs for families with health needs through movement programs to have to pay more for meds, when there is no reason or rhyme for the escalated prices. Even over the counter meds are over priced and not even reasonable. Why oh why has this been allowed?Thank God that President Trump has taken a stance and stand against this terrible issue that has been going on for years and years. God Bless our President and God Bless The United States of America.

Note that the most expensive and/or most prescribed drugs are the most advertised drugs. Some of these ads run multiple times in a half-hour program, especially during prime time, particularly on news and other programs watched mostly by seniors.

How much does this advertising add to the cost of the drugs?

Also, how much do the drug companies pay to or for doctors to endorse and prescribe these drugs?

Prices are unpredictable to the point that they seem almost random, with few exceptions. Manufacturers are entitled to a fair return on their investment, including R&D costs, but profits overall seem extreme. Why can't the prices of these products be regulated primarily in the public interest?

Why do they cost so much? Why do the prices vary between vendors? Why does it cost so much money to pay for medication that would either keep you alive and/or improve your daily health?

Why are the cost of prescription drugs so expensive?

Why do the drugs cost so much? I watch the prices increase even though the medications have been produced for decades.

Why are they so costly, especially life threatening illness drugs?

There is a lack of transparency regarding prescription drug prices. Between the manufacturer, wholesaler, PBM, and pharmacy. Independent of that, the manufacture price of a drug varies by the country in which the drug was purchased - why is that and how can we bring more transparency to the drug price to allow consumers the ability to make informed decisions working with their doctor? Why aren't rebates passed through to the consumer up front when a drug is purchased?

What immediate steps will be taken to provide straight, transparent price tags and costs for patients?

What steps will be taken to fast-track cost transparency and dramatic cost LOWERING?

What is the cost to manufacture insulin vs. the price charged and billed out?

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Why is a necessary and life saving drug like insulin now so expensive that people are dying because they cannot afford to take it as prescribed?
Will life-saving drugs such as insulin be fast-tracked to cut out the ridiculous and murderous price increases that have occurred to a drug that was meant to be high-quality and very low cost in order to SAVE LIVES?
Why are the costs so high for some medications that have been on the market for years, especially life saving drugs like insulin?
Why is there no generic insulin?
How can you help with insulin costs?
In Canada, there is a cap on how much a company can charge for -needed- drugs. Things such as insulin and others, while made to the same standard are up 100 times cheaper in Canada. Why do we not have this in our country?
Why are Americans charged so much compared to other patients overseas?
Why are we paying 300% or more than most other developed countries for the same medicines and treatments?
Why can't we have the cheaper prices that citizens of Canada, Europe and Latin America have? Is it that the certain politicians are getting lots of money from the drug companies? I'd like to see this exposed and changed in the best interest of the citizens of the US.
I have lived in plenty of other countries where drugs are much cheaper. Why should we be arbitrarily paying more?
Are the majority of new drugs found thru research in USA or other countries? If USA, why are we paying premium prices for the same drug sold in other countries for a lower price?
Why are pharmaceutical companies allowed to set any price they want for a prescription drug until the exclusivity period expires and other companies can release a similar generic drug?
Why are certain 'generic' drugs priced at comparable levels to those with branded identities?
WILL DRUG PRICING REDUCTIONS apply to the newest, most advance drugs available so that EVERYONE, not just those who can afford it, has access to the latest and most effective drugs?
Why are drug companies allowed to set their own prices with no apparent public review?
To what extent is it true that Rx prices in the US must be high to support research?

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Why do the cost continue to rise and so expensive for routine maintenance and necessary medication?
How can I be assured that Oregon is standing up for its citizens regarding drug companies pricing models? What will Oregon do specifically to protect its citizens? Are there attempts being made to limit the amount a company can ask for a given drug?
I do not have more questions, but I certainly do request medical and insurance reform at the state and especially the federal level to curb high drug prices.
What, exactly, is Oregon doing to bring prescription drug prices under control?
How many drugs go through the R&D phases of development and never get approved for sale by the FDA? Who covers all of those sunk costs? Does the US lead the world in new drug innovation and is that one reason why drugs cost so much? If we regulate drug prices too much will that stifle innovation and reduce our access to new and improved remedies? Is there a long and short term solution to all this?
Why does government not conduct appropriate oversight over these regulated monopoly industries, allowing them instead to set prices at will?
Does the STATE of OREGON have any say over the prices of prescription drugs, as they do over medical insurance?
Why can't the government make a law that prevents drug companies from making tiny changes in their products and then getting another 7 years of patent on their drug?
Why has the government not controlled prices like other countries do?
Why doesn't the federal government regulate the prices, especially for medications used to treat common chronic illnesses such as asthma and diabetes?
Why are persons penalized for never subscribing to part D Medicare when first signing up, e.g. penalties, fines and fees?
Why are carriers allowed to increase price mid year?
When will Americans address the issue of insane drug prices for the poor?
Is anyone looking at whether lab tests are covered that are required to be done when taking certain medications like Humira?
What can be done to make more prescription drugs available to more people in need?
Why do drug producers make larger contributions to individual politicians in positions of influence than the general public?

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WHY do people die because they can't afford your profits?????????????
Why do I get charged different prices in different places? Why do I get charged \$20-25 for a prescription that costs less than \$5 to make and package? Why is there not a cap on percentage of markup on prices? Who is setting drug prices and availability. Why are companies allowed to distribute baby food and medications that are taken off American market to third world countries? They should not be overproducing so much— and they go out of date!
Why can't the cost of insulin be lowered?
Why are prices not regulated by the government, especially for life-sustaining drugs and equipment for people with type 1 diabetes?
Why is it possible to purchase the same prescription drug (same manufacturer/same packaging) in Canada for less than in the US even with prescription insurance?
How can a very old medication, tetracycline, go from \$6 for three months (with insurance) to a copay of \$250 and then be taken off Medicare entirely. If I wanted that drug, it would cost \$2,000 for 3 months. The drug industry is corrupt! So how can that be?
Why are generics almost as expensive as the original?
Why is my MS drug \$7,840 per month in the United States and \$9.00 per month in the UK? Same drug (REBIF).
How does the program address public need with consumer specific behavioral expectations? Meaning, 'does the public have the will/motivation to affordably obtain substances?' There is also the question of price distribution between public trust assets and private insurance pools.
Why don't we regulate drug prices in Oregon, like utilities, for example?
Why does the government allow a dysfunctional marketplace with regards to prescription drugs? Why does it allow prices to rise so much that increasingly care is rationed for treatments that evidence shows are effective? Why does DCBS and the State of Oregon pay prices (through Medicaid/PEBB/OEBB) that do not align with evidence of the effectiveness of the medications? Why does the state not expand the Prescription Drug Program and require insurers and pharma to participate/fund it? Does DCBS not have the regulatory authority to ensure transparency and regulate prescription drug prices, AND insurers (who participate in the price increase cycle)? If not, it should seek legislation to gain that authority.
Why are they going up and why are not the insurance company paying what they use to? I am paying from 20 to 60% this year.
Why are drug prices different depending on location you purchase the prescription and your insurance option?

Oregon Drug Price Transparency Program

Exhibit 1: Questions from consumers received by DCBS through Dec. 7, 2021.

NOTE 1: There is light editing for readability. Names of consumers, family members, and private businesses were removed, except for drug manufacturers.

NOTE 2: The term "donut hole" refers to a coverage gap in Medicare drug plans created by drug plan limitations.

Why does Medicare Part D track NOT what the insured ACTUALLY pay for medications after deductible + copay + coinsurance, but the preposterously inflated prices pharmaceutical companies set at will, which guarantees that the "donut hole" [coverage gap in Medicare drug plans created by drug plan limitations] is reached far more quickly?

Why is there such a discrepancy in pricing from various pharmacies/vendors? I found a prescription (25 day supply of eye drops) co-pay of \$212, \$112, \$89 and with a coupon and not using my insurance, \$49 all from various local pharmacies?

Why do I have to pay sometimes outlandish prices, with insurance, for drugs that used to cost pennies a piece, and now cost over \$2.00 with insurance, and would cost more than \$5.00 if I didn't have insurance?

Prices for asthma medicine have skyrocketed and insurance premiums and deductibles are not affordable. Where does all the money go? Why are the prices so high for critical medications such as asthma treatment, and insurance companies get to choose what medications are allowable regardless of what a doctor prescribes?

What is the point of even having health insurance anymore? The companies that provide insurance charge enormous premiums for coverage with ridiculously high deductibles. If insurance premiums are high, the deductibles are high, and prescription drug prices are high, where does all the money go? The current pricing system certainly is not benefiting the people that work, pay insurance premiums, and have to rely on it.

With my insurance, I have a policy which "pays" for my prescription drugs, except it doesn't. Over recent years, the drug formulary has just simply dropped drugs I take from its list of permitted drugs. This is more than simply substituting a generic drug for a brand name drug. Why is that permitted? Just "who" is making the decisions about what medications are included? Do medical providers and actual doctors have input?

What is being done to penalize companies that have been manufacturing the dangerous and addictive narcotic substances that have been poisoning our communities for the last 50 years? These companies have directly profited off of other's addictions and have cost the states in excess of hundreds of millions of dollars in treatment funding as well as being a drain on insurance companies as well. These companies need to be held accountable, without being able to go into bankruptcy to specifically escape consequences and made to pay reparations for the damage, broken homes, and deaths that THEIR drugs have causes.

I take a drug that I must take in order to continue to live. It is a brand name drug with no generic equivalent. What can be done to streamline process of making a generic version?

Will this be forwarded under the touted "Medicare for all" program?

Why is there no regulation to keep the prices down to levels of the countries to the North and the South?

Why do common medications keep going up in price? Why is there no mandate to create generics for certain common drugs, i.e. Premarin vaginal cream, Ventolin inhaler, and other inhalers?