

Drug Regulation in a Trump World: Health Policy In 2017

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Rising Leaders Conference on Healthcare Policy

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Regulatory and Policy Research Note

FDA's New Drug Office: CDER Director Plans Significant Changes During Interim Period; More External Focus For Reviewers

Center for Drug Evaluation & Research Director Janet Woodcock appears to have ambitious plans to reconfigure FDA's Office of New Drugs.

Woodcock stepped in as acting head of OND following the retirement of John Jenkins in January. (See our Dec. 5, 2016 note, [FDA's Jenkins To Retire As Top Drug Review Manager, Breaking Up Team Of Experienced Center Leaders: Will Others Follow?](#)) All signs are that she intends to remain in that role for a relatively extended period; Woodcock is spending about half of her time in OND, including using Jenkins' former office (which is in a different building on the FDA campus than her CDER director's office).

The key theme of Woodcock's revamp of OND is likely to be the inculcation of a more externally focused model for reviewers. The effort could well be more significant for FDA's future performance than any externally imposed reforms as part of the Trump Administration transition or user fee reauthorization legislation.

Woodcock has had an impressive record during her three decades at FDA of imposing her views and approaches to fix what she perceives as areas where the agency needs to upgrade.

Woodcock was one of the primary architects of the user fee review model, having overseen the evolution of the center for drugs towards a deadline-focused organization in the 1990s; she was named CDER director in 1994, just as the review goals set by the 1992 Prescription Drug User Fee Act began to phase in.

Two decades later, she appears to believe it is time to upgrade the model for new drug reviews, and her hands-on engagement has the feel of treating reshaping OND as a legacy/career capstone issue.

Woodcock's decision to directly engage as acting head of OND follows her recent turn as acting head of the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, which lasted about 28 months. (See our Sept. 28, 2015 note, [FDA Turns To Novartis Exec Kopcha To Head Quality Office; Industry Perspective Adds To FDA's New GMP Models.](#))

There is one big difference: OPQ was a newly established structure and key to Woodcock's personal priority of reinventing the regulatory model for manufacturing oversight and encouraging industry to undertake GMP improvements. In contrast, OND is a well-established structure that has been functioning very well in meeting performance metrics tied to its mission of overseeing NDA reviews.

For manufacturers, Woodcock's track record is very reassuring. Her focus will clearly be on more deeply embedding the importance of FDA's role in encouraging new therapies for unmet medical need – not on rolling back the recent pro-innovation climate.

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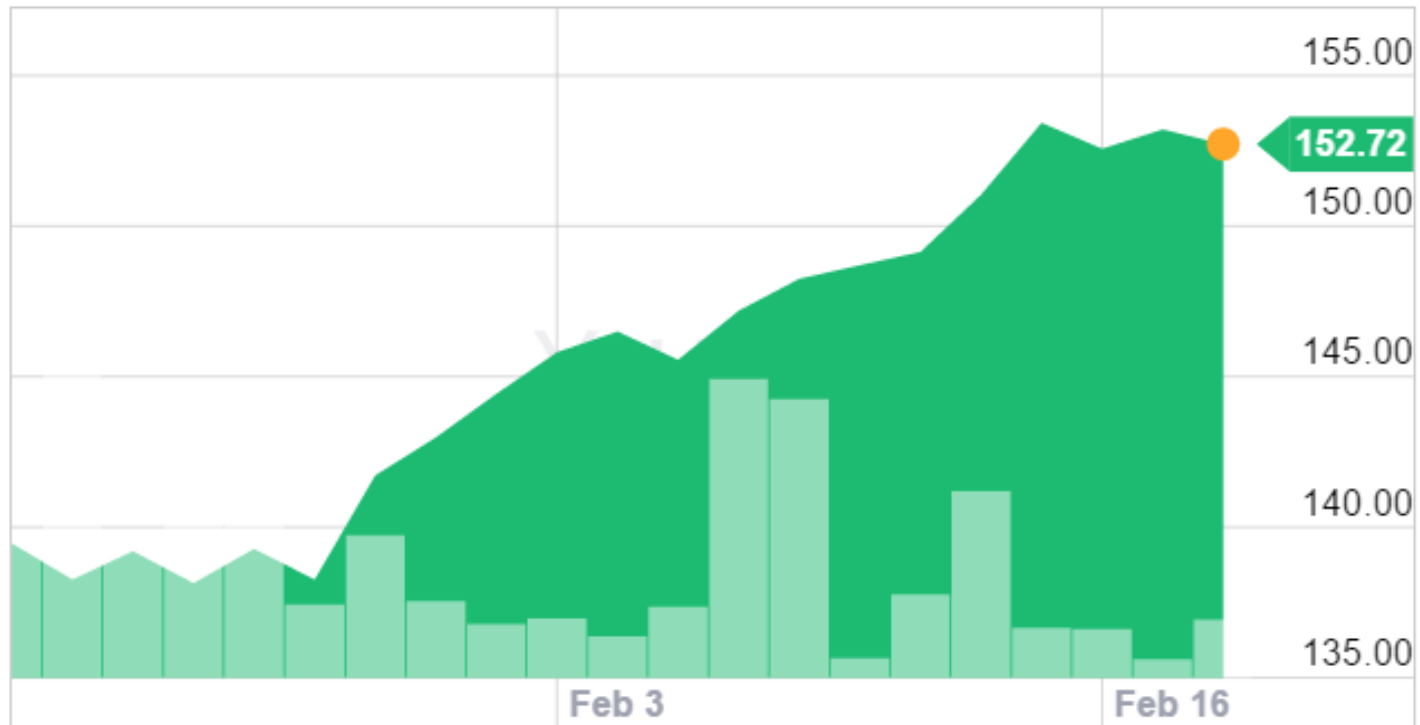
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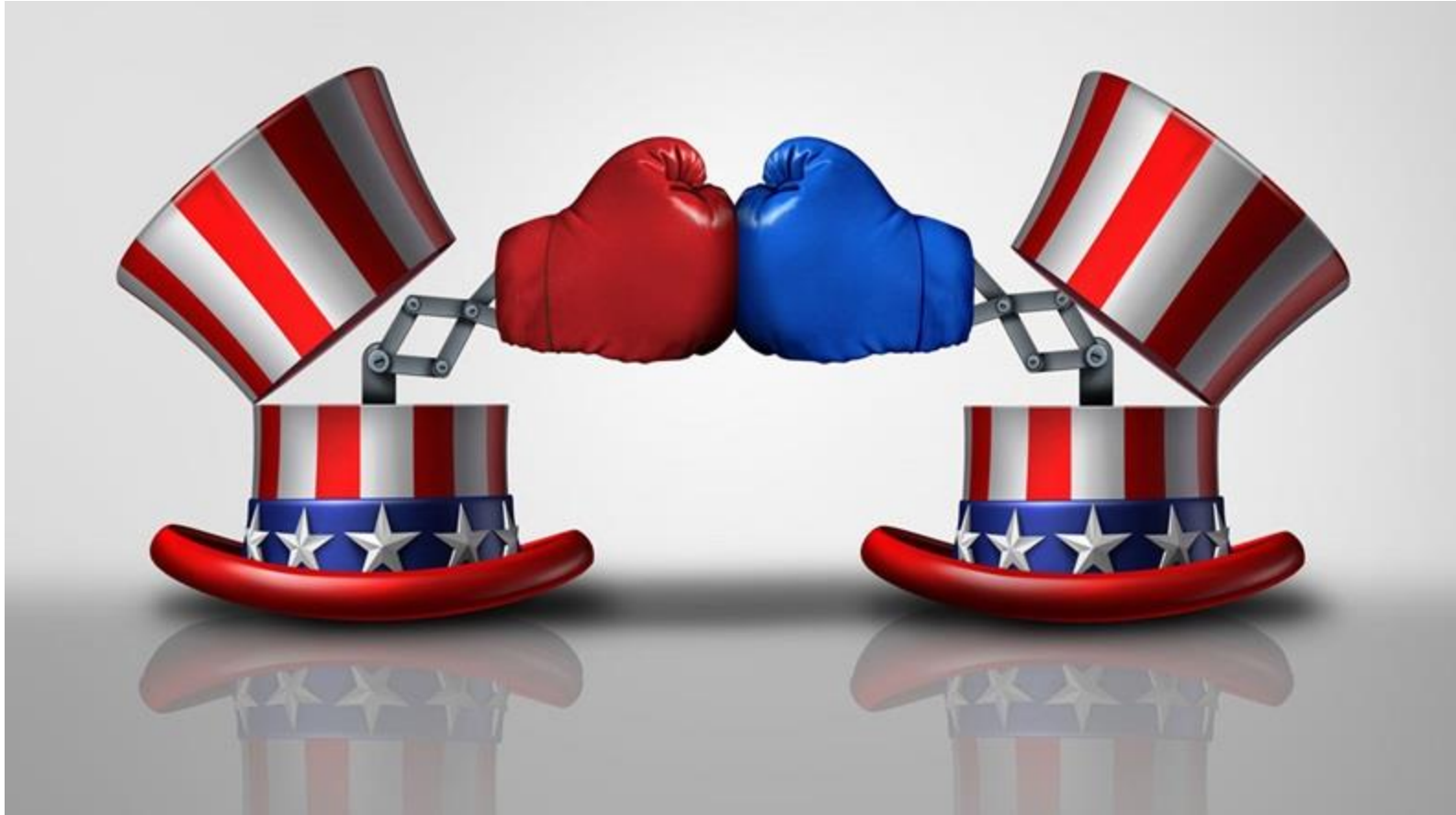
The Election Results Are In...

And Biopharma Won!



...At Least On Wall Street

Is It That Clear Cut?



#1: No Clinton Drug Pricing Plan

Factsheets

Hillary Clinton's Plan for Lowering Prescription Drug Costs

September 22, 2015



\$250/month co-pay cap (\$3K/year)

- ✓ Allow Rx reimports
- ✓ "Pay less or rebate"
- ✓ Part D reforms and price negotiation
- ✓ No DTC advertising; FDA preclearance
- ✓ End "pay for delay" deals
- ✓ Reduce biologics exclusivity from 12 years to seven years
- ✓ More funding for FDA reviews
- ✓ Retain provisions of Affordable Care Act

#2: No Sanders Drug Pricing Hearings



Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders



Bloomberg Markets Tech Pursuits Politics Opinion

Sanders Takes Aim at Insulin Makers in Latest Price Attack

“Drug corporations' greed is unbelievable.”

#3: Prop 61 Defeated



Vote Yes on Prop. 61!

Statewide

100.0% (24,847 of 24,847) precincts partially reporting as of November 14, 2016, 8:49 p.m.

		Votes	%
	Yes	4,418,909	46.1%
	No	5,159,373	53.9%

Wasn't This The Year Drug Pricing Was The Bipartisan, Populist Issue?

So We Are All Feeling Good, Right?



Things Aren't All That Simple...

There Are Some Uncertainties...

Now
What?



1. How Will Trump Govern?

2. What Happens To FDA?

- Overall a positive regulatory climate, with uncertainties on horizon
 - FDA commissioner outlook; what does Commissioner Gottlieb do?
 - CDER ongoing hiring challenges
 - Leadership change at Office of New Drugs
- Change is Coming, Regardless
 - 21st Century Cures funding and implementation
 - PDUFA VI: what might get hung from that Christmas tree?

3. Affordable Care Act: Repeal, Replace, Regurgitate?

- Repeal is inherently NOT good for pharma

4. The Drug Pricing Debate is NOT Over

#1: How Will Trump Govern?



Chairman Of The Board



The Voice of the “Deplorables”



An Establishment Agenda



Uncertainty #2: What Happens To FDA?

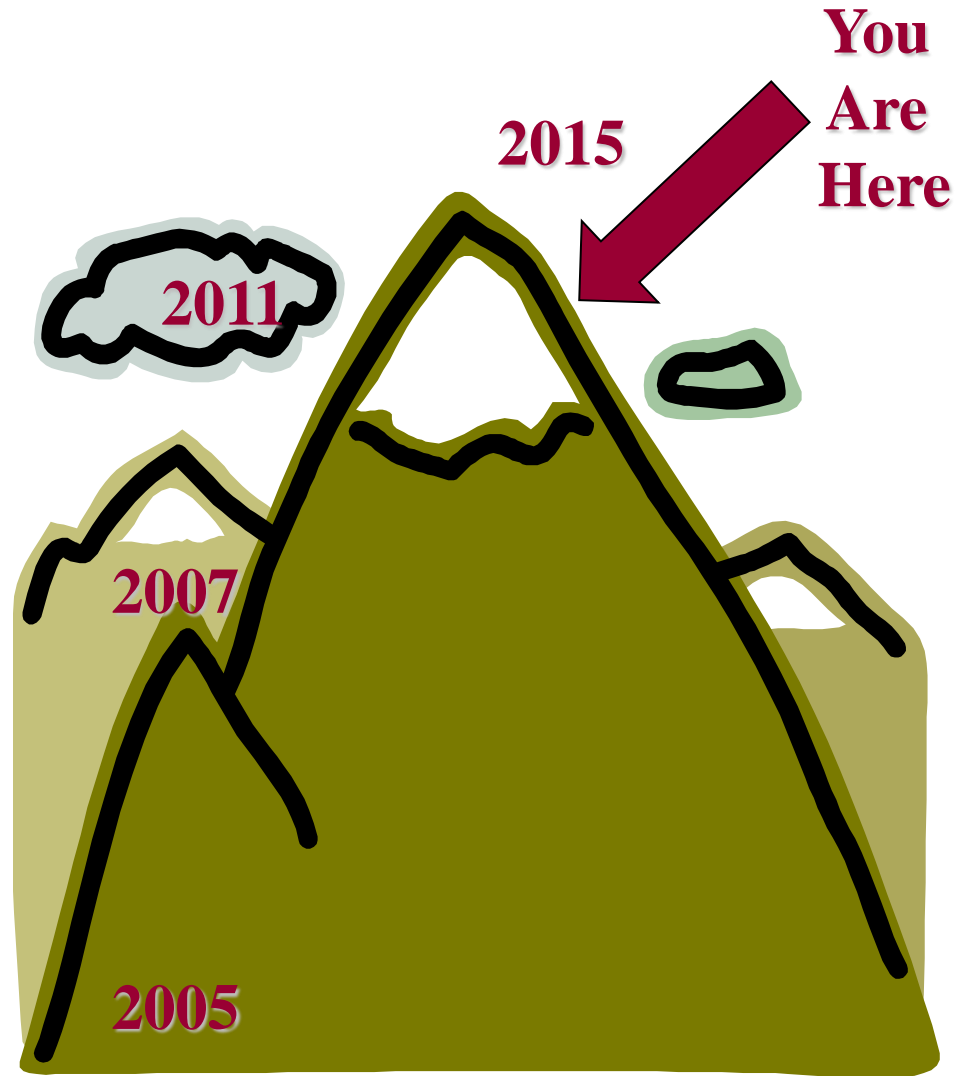




- Innovator-Oriented
- Regulatory Flexibility
- Confident and Decisive*
- Risk Tolerant*
- Operating At High Efficiency*

*(Relatively Speaking)

But: We Are Past The Peak



Real Innovation is Rewarded

- 67 Breakthrough approvals to date*
 - 441 requests for Breakthrough; 150 designations granted*
 - Initially thought would have 2-3 designations per year
- “The Lake Wobegon effect”: Where *all* drugs are special
 - Now 19 (!) special designations at FDA (three under “Cures”)
 - 73% of novel drugs approved in 2016 used an expedited pathway
 - 37% of novel 2016 approvals were in rare disease
 - Nearly one-third (32%) of 2016 novel approvals were Breakthrough
- Have Breakthrough approvals hit the peak? Likely not.
 - 18 so far in 2017, including three over two days (as of April 30)
 - 21 approvals each in 2015/2016, versus 15 in 2014; three in 2013
 - Includes novel treatments and new indications

*as of March 31, 2017

A Year Of Extremes

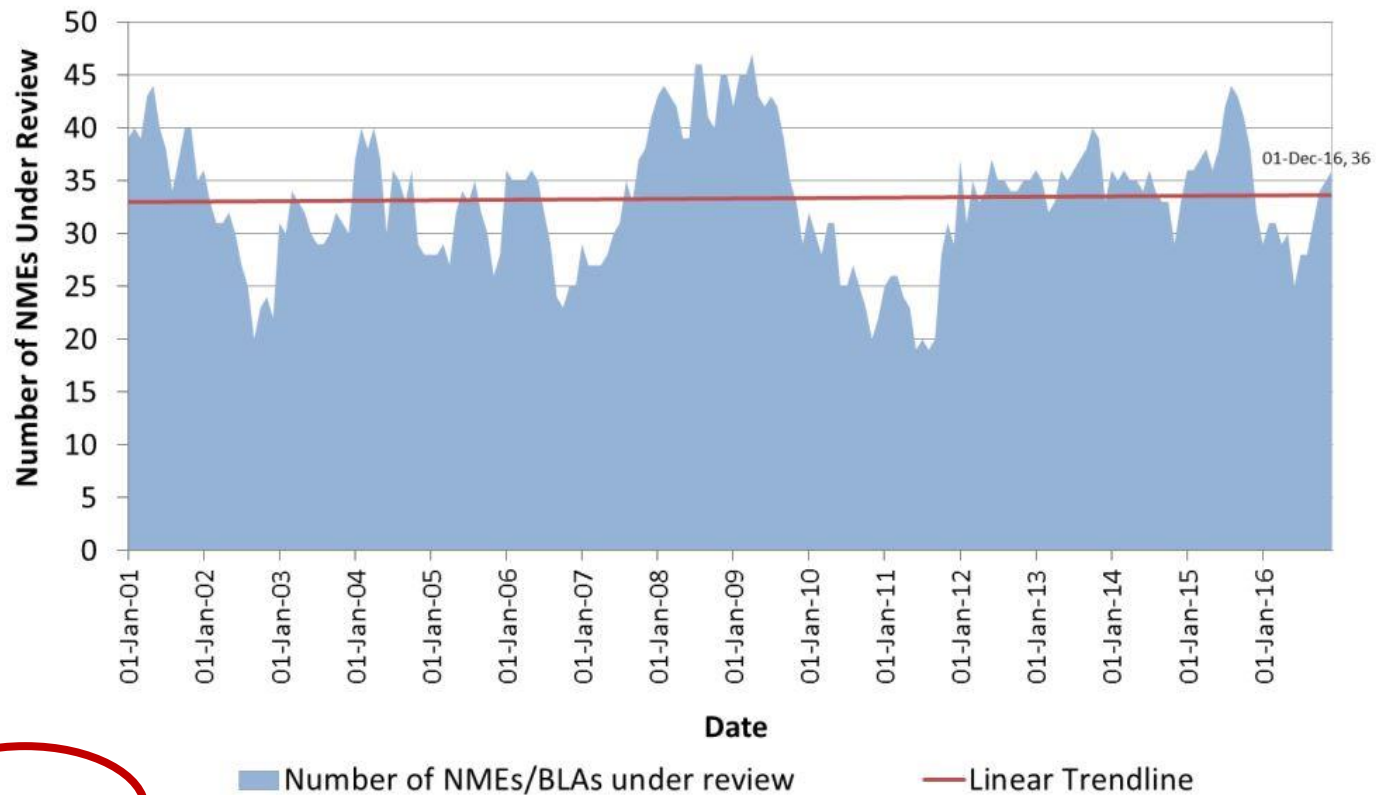
Fewer New Drugs, But With Higher Priority



SOURCE: The Pink Sheet, January 2, 2017

FDA

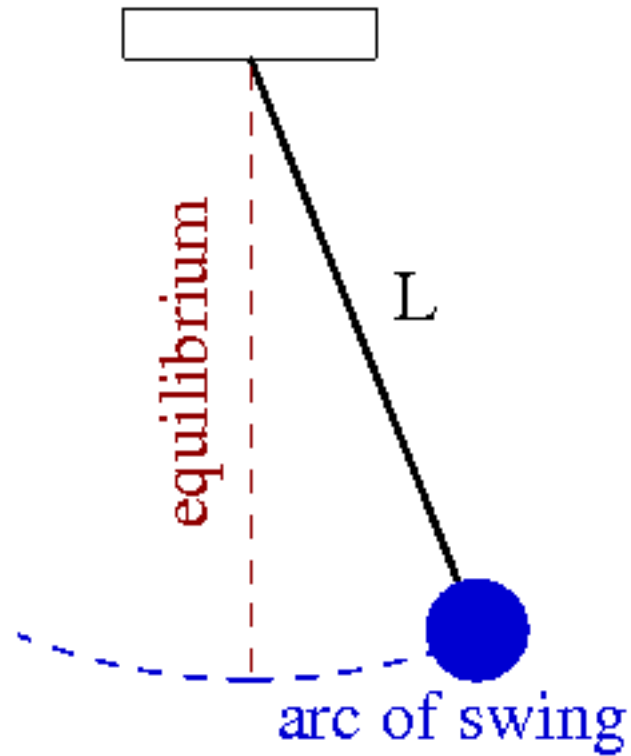
CDER Novel Drugs and Biologics Under Active Review



* Data as of 12/1/2016

SOURCE: John Jenkins, Food & Drug Administration

Is A Pendulum Swing Coming?



Government Hiring Freeze

- Most CDER slots exempted, BUT:
- 50 vacant leadership posts (591 vacancies total)
 - ~100 open positions in Office of New Drugs

“Two-for One” Reg Rule

- Cost Offset is Key Constraint
- Plenty of Exceptions
- End of OTC Monograph Process?

FDA Budget Improves





“We're gonna be cutting regulations at a level that nobody's ever seen before.... We're gonna streamline the FDA.”

--President Trump, January 31

Trump's Health Team (So Far)



HHS Secretary Tom Price

House Budget Chair
Sponsor of ACA "Repeal"
MD (Orthopedist)
Opponent of Part B Demo
"Reimagine HHS"
Senate confirmed
February 10



HRSA Administrator George Sigounas

East Carolina
University/Brody
School of Medicine
Bone Marrow
Transplantation
Program
NIH Researcher



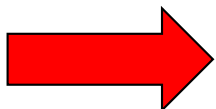
CMS Administrator Seema Verma

"Healthy Indiana" Author
Model For GOP Medicaid
Expansion
Senate confirmed March 13



FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb

Physician, Cancer Survivor
Former FDA, CMS Official
Confirmed May 9



First Trump appointee at FDA: Anna Abram/point person on user fees

- **Good news: The Trump Administration Can Listen**
 - Knows Key FDA Staff
 - Democrats Complaints About Industry Ties Will Set Table For Future Critiques
 - Lacks Management Experience
- **Will He Have To Play To Peter Thiel?**



- ✓ **Implement 21st Century Cures**
- ✓ **Secure User Fee Reauthorization**
- ✓ **Set “Off-Label” Policy**

And:

- ✓ **Opioids**
- ✓ **Tobacco “Deeming” Regs**
- ✓ **LDT Regulation**
- ✓ **Food Safety**
- ✓ **And Whatever Crisis Erupts**

Job Number One: Reassure The Staff



Robert Temple
CDER Deputy
Joined FDA 1972
45 years



Janet Woodcock
CDER Director
Joined FDA 1986
31 years



Doug Throckmorton
CDER Deputy
Joined FDA 1997
20 years



Richard Pazdur
OCE/OHOP Director
Joined FDA 1999
18 years



Tom Abrams
OPDP Director
Joined FDA 1993
24 years



John Jenkins
Office of New Drugs Director
Joined FDA 1992
25 years



Gerald Dal Pan
Office of Surveillance & Epidemiology
Joined FDA 2000
17 years

*205 years
at FDA
combined*



Signed into Law
December 13

New Antibiotic Pathway

- “Limited Use”

Regenerative Medicine Process

- More Headlines Than Substance

Tweaks Health Economic Promotion Rules

Small, Immediate Funding Boost

Incremental FDA Reforms

- Real World Evidence
- Innovative Trial Design
- Biomarker Qualification
- Patient Input
- Centers of Excellence



Funds Medical Product Reviews

Brands (PDUFA)

Generics (GDUFA)

Biosimilars (BsUFA)

Devices (MDUFMA)

**User Fee Bill Due
By October 1**

Biggest Changes For Generics

Already Negotiated

- Patient-Focused Drug Development
- Breakthrough Therapies program capacity
- Real World Evidence
- Post-Market safety surveillance
- Many FDA commitments for guidance documents, etc.



Potential Add-Ons

- Wildcard patent for antibiotics
- REMS reform/CREATES
- **Generic expedited reviews**
- Accelerated approval guidance from FDA
- REGROW reincarnated?
- Right to Try – or **broaden clinical trial enrollment**
- Orphan Drug Act changes
- *NO drug pricing (yet)*

President's Budget

- Double User Fees
- Trump Says Industry Must Pay “Their Share”
- **Nonstarter for 2017...**
- **...But Is Start Of Push To 100% User Fees For FDA?**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) works to enhance the health and well-being of Americans by providing effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services. The Budget supports the core mission of HHS through the most efficient and effective health and human service programs. In 2018, HHS funds the highest priorities, such as: health services through community health centers, Ryan White HIV/AIDS providers, and the Indian Health Service; early care and education; and medical products review and innovation. In addition, it funds urgent public health issues, such as prescription drug overdose, and program integrity for Medicare and Medicaid. The Budget eliminates programs that are duplicative or have limited impact on public health and well-being. The Budget allows HHS to continue to support priority activities that reflect a new and sustainable approach to long-term fiscal stability across the Federal Government.

The President's 2018 Budget requests \$69.0 billion for HHS, a \$15.1 billion or 17.9 percent decrease from the 2017 annualized CR level. This funding level excludes certain mandatory spending changes but includes additional funds for program integrity and implementing the 21st Century CURES Act.

The President's 2018 Budget:

- Supports direct health care services, such as those delivered by community health centers, Ryan White HIV/AIDS providers, and the Indian Health Service. These safety net providers deliver critical health care services to low-income and vulnerable populations.
- Strengthens the integrity and sustainability of Medicare and Medicaid by investing in activities to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and promote high quality and efficient health care. Additional funding for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) program has allowed the

#3: What Happens To The ACA?



Repeal And Replace Is NOT Inherently Good For Pharma

The Health Reform “Deal”

Repeal These

Short Term Pain

Medicaid Rebates
Increase

- Retroactive Impact

Market Share “Fee”

Donut Hole Discount

2018 Expansion

But Not This!

Don't Touch This!

No Launch Price Controls

Keep These

Long Term Gain

Newly Insured Lives

- Adding Canada to the US

Better Coverage for
Insured

- Pre-Existing Conditions
- No Lifetime Cap
- Potential For Co-Pay Reform
- The End of the Donut Hole

The Story So Far:



Plan A

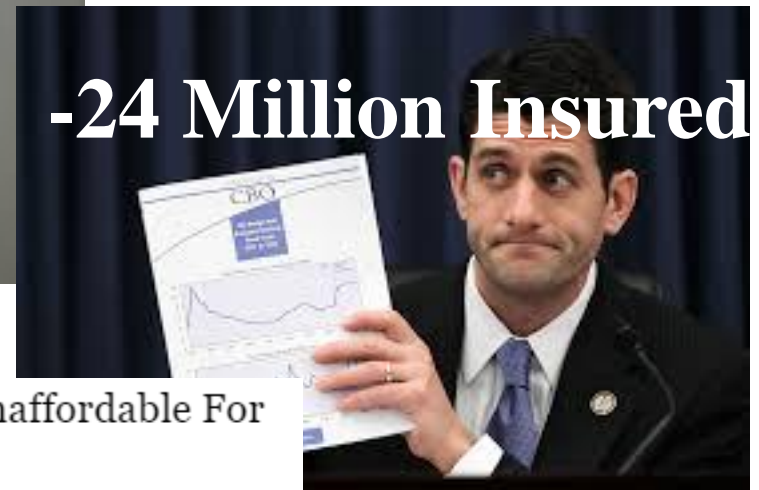
Repeal and Delay

- 2015 Bill Passed House & Senate Via “Reconciliation”
- Reset Effective Date To 2020 (ish)
- Pass By Inauguration Day



Repeal And “Replace”

- Dramatic Medicaid Reforms
 - Phased In (Maybe?)
- Age-Based Tax Credits
- Enrollment Penalty



GOP's Obamacare Replacement Will Make Coverage Unaffordable For Millions -- Otherwise, It's Great

The Story So Far:

~~Plan A~~

~~Plan B~~

Plan C



OK. So Now What?



****CBO score on American Health Care Act due week of May 22****



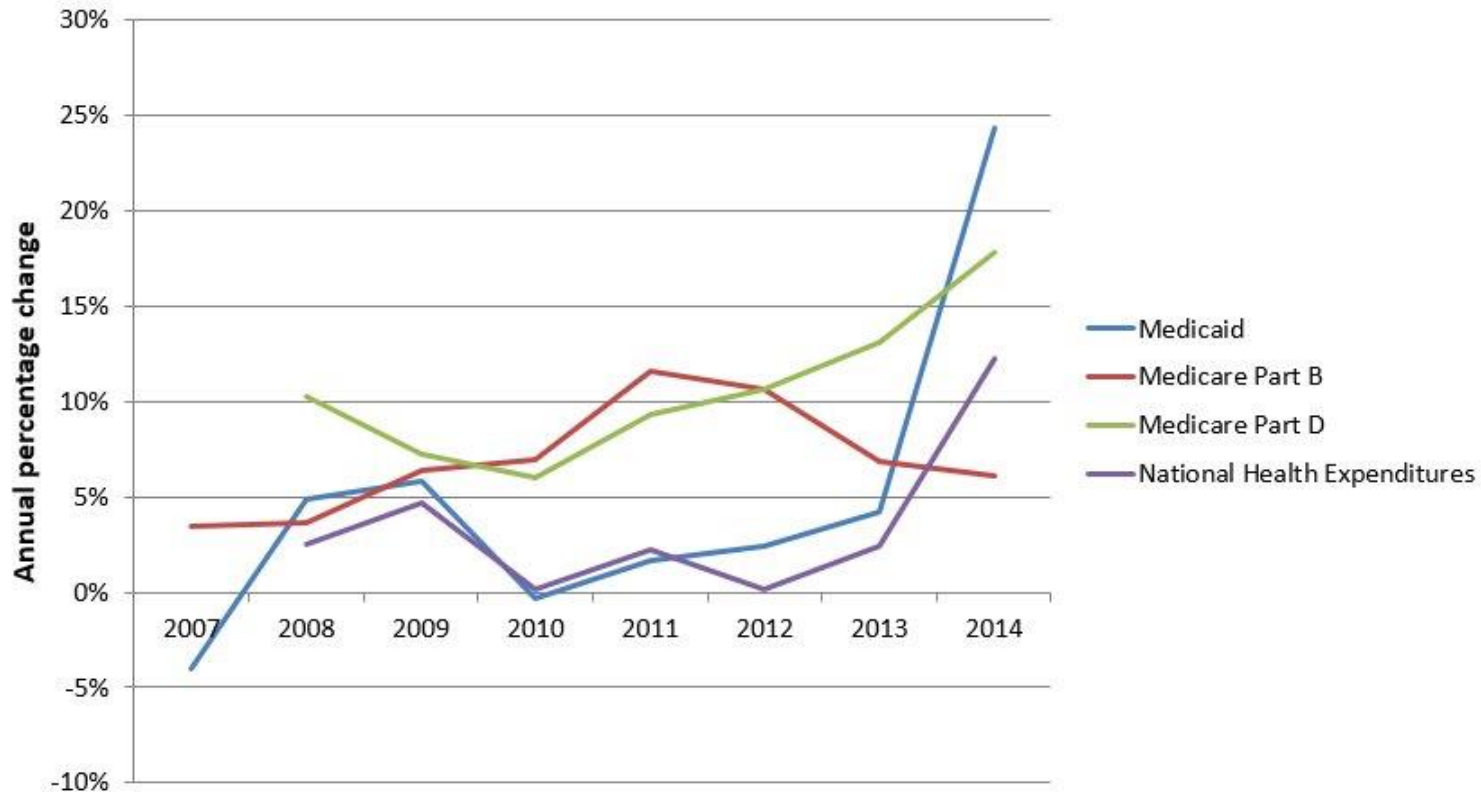
Repair – Then Replace

- Focus On Stabilizing Exchange Market
- Continue “Repeal” Fight For Another Cycle...

MOVE ON TO TAX REFORM!

Which Brings Us To...

**Annual Growth in Prescription Drug Spending Continued to Increase
between 2007 and 2014**



#4: Drug Pricing Debate Is Not Going Away

It Depends Who You Ask...



“Reforming the Food and Drug Administration and reducing the regulatory burdens on drug manufacturers so as to enhance competition will help accomplish those goals.”

March 8 Statement



“The other thing we have to do is create new bidding procedures for the drug industry, because they're getting away with murder.”

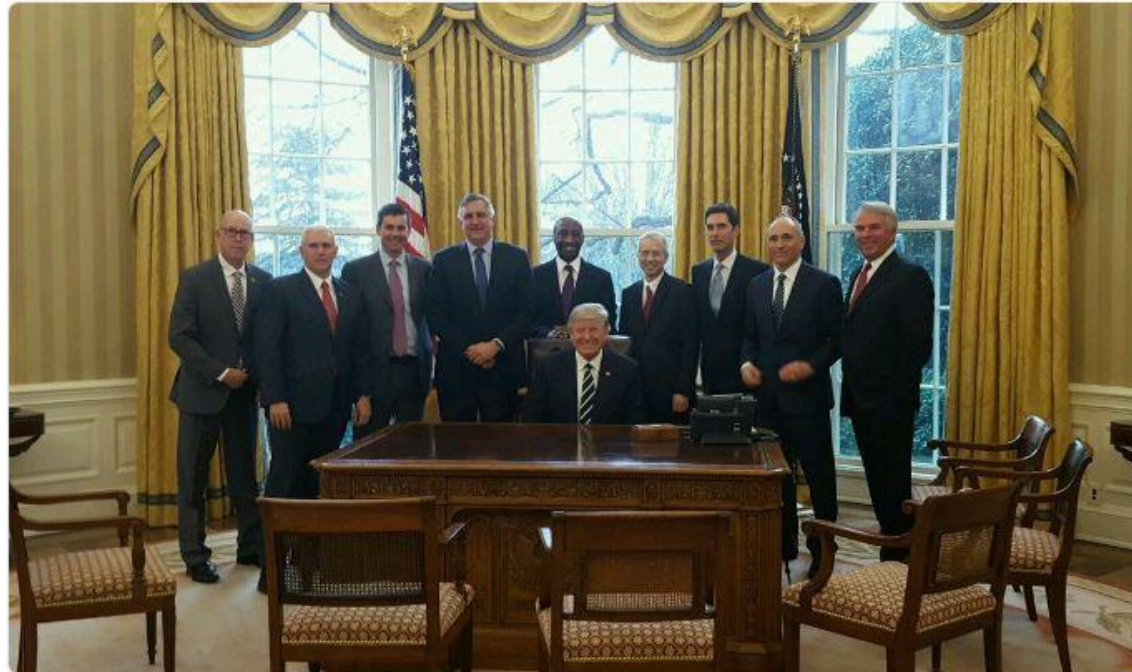
Jan. 11 press conference

The Politics of Drug Pricing



President Trump @POTUS · Jan 31

Today I met with pharmaceutical executives at the
[@WhiteHouse...facebook.com/DonaldTrump/po...](https://www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump/po...)



4.2K



5K



25K

"The pricing has been astronomical. You folks have done a very great job over the years but we have to get the prices down."

The President Supports Part D Price Negotiation!





**A Whole Administration Staffed
With People Interested In
Addressing Drug Prices**



HHS Drug Pricing Forum

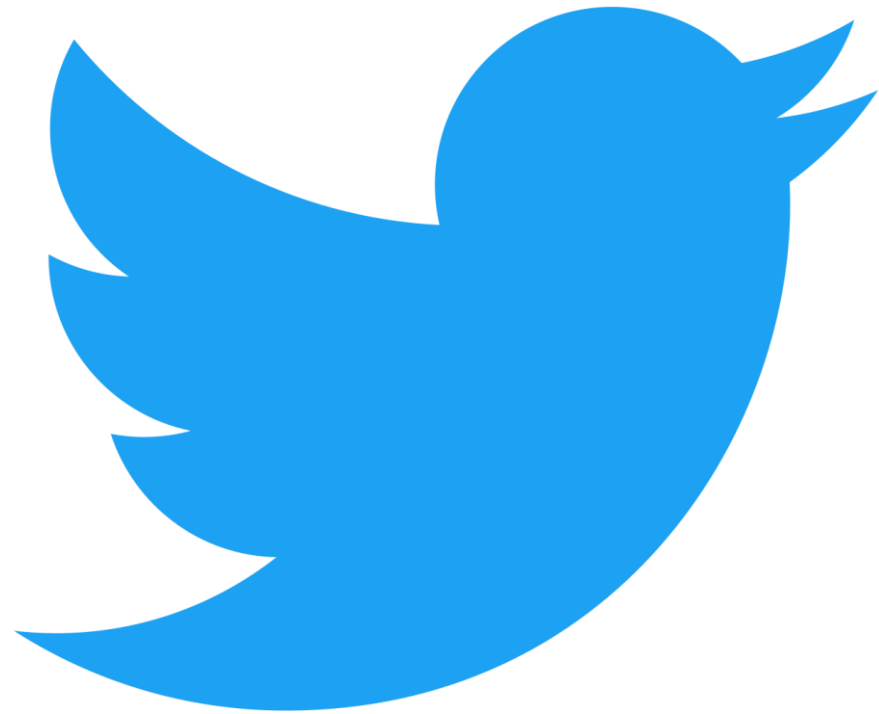


**CMS Letters To Hep C Companies;
Part B Demo**

What Trump Has:



A Twitter Account



The Power To Exclude

- Fragmented Payors
- Blend of Public And Private
- Value Discussion Diffuse
- No One Can “Just Say No”
 - Different Products Profiles Can Fit Different Niches
- Blanket Policies Tend To Support Access



The Presidential Tweet 

Single-Product Negotiation

Enhanced FTC Enforcement

False Claims Act Prosecutions

FDA Reforms to Enhance Competition



*Some pharma companies are making pricing pledges.
Will they be enough?*

What's On the Table?

- “Pay for delay” patent settlement agreements
- Patient assistance programs that drive brand purchasing
- Accelerating generic drug approvals as a way to stimulate more price competition
- Shortening the regulatory process for expanding drug labels with post-market data
- Copay reform



Quotes From FDA Commissioner Robert Califf

With better evidence, “**people wouldn’t spend money on expensive drugs when they are not needed.**”

Senate HELP confirmation hearing November 15, 2015

On FDA’s mission: “FDA’s mission statement includes another component as well...to advance the public health by helping to speed innovations that make medicines and devices more effective, safer, **and more affordable....**”

On generics: “...Over 90 percent of prescriptions in the US are now generics – a critical element of efforts to **reduce cost** and improve accessibility of therapies.”

On biosimilars: “This groundbreaking path to market was created five years ago by Congress to create greater competition, increase treatment options for patients, and **produce less expensive alternatives to comparable products.**

FDLI annual conference 2016

“Re-Pricing” Strategy Is Dead (For Now)



SHUTTING DOWN


EmflazaTM
(deflazacort)

6 mg | 18 mg | 30 mg | 36 mg tablets
22.75 mg/mL oral suspension

Is 10% The Magic Number?



**Mylan CEO Heather Bresch
House Oversight & Government Reform
September 21, 2016**



Executive Action Can Help

- “Best Price” Tweaks To Enable Outcomes-Based Contracts
- IG Policy Change On Adherence Programs
- Part D Plans Pressured On Cost-Sharing
- Demonstration Projects On Innovative Pricing/Coverage Models



GOP Doesn't Want To Overspend On Drugs Either



Former CMS Administrator Scully

- Least Costly Alternative
- Functional Equivalence
- Negotiation on *Zevalin*



Former HHS Secretary Thompson

- *Cipro* Purchase Agreement
- Implied Patent Threat
- Supported Price Negotiation

HHS Can't Negotiate Prices, But It Can Negotiate A Price

Thank You!

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