

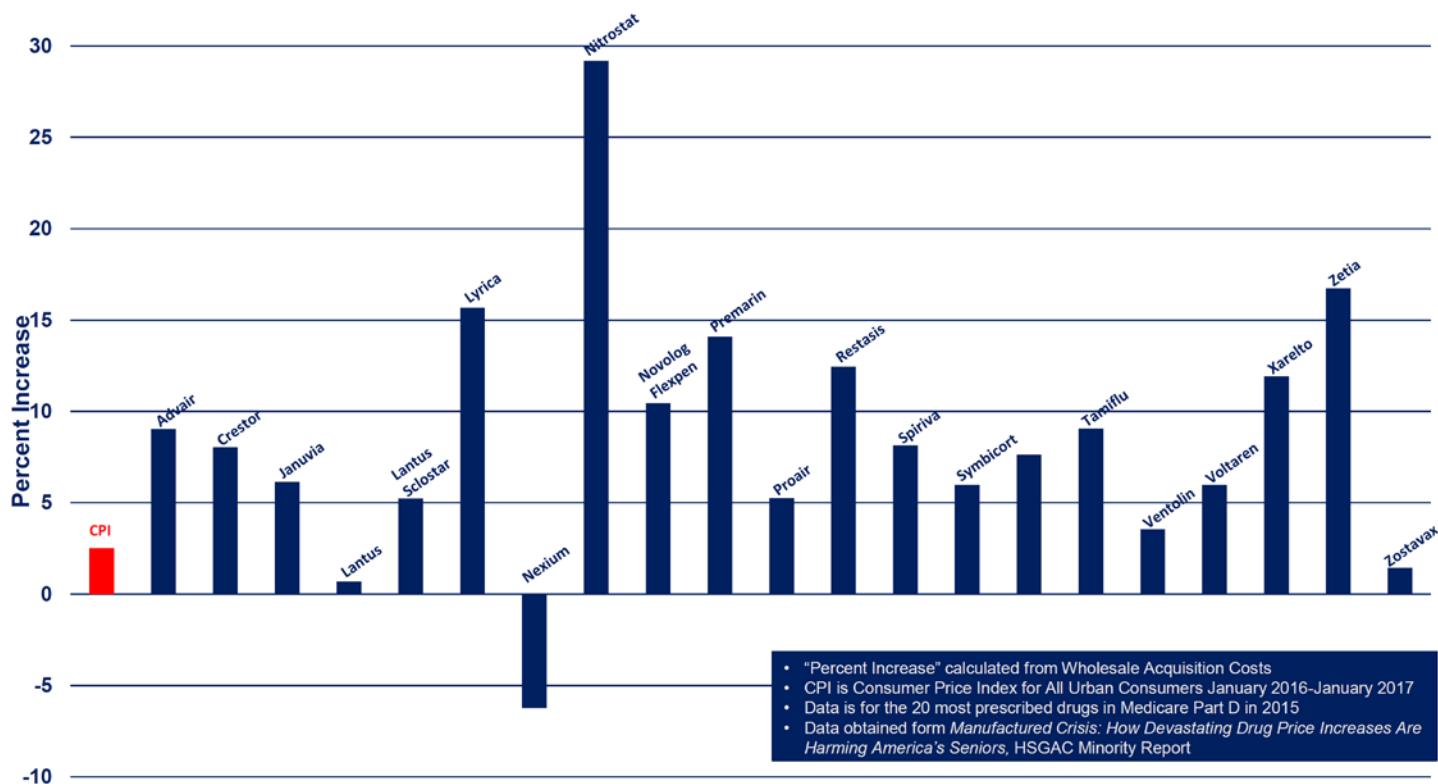
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS ALL TALK ON DRUG PRICES – GIVING THE DRUG INDUSTRY A BLANK CHECK TO HIKE PRICES

Despite making bold promises to lower drug prices on the campaign trail, President Trump has done nothing to make prescriptions any more affordable for patients and families. Furthermore, President Trump's recently released blueprint did not address many of the flawed incentives and policies that have enabled pharmaceutical companies to continue to raise drug prices – which is not surprising given that a [recent report](#) by Senate Democrats shows that parts of the blueprint are just policy prescriptions proposed by drug companies themselves.

Since the beginning of the Trump Administration, prices have continued to grow for both the most commonly prescribed and the most expensive drugs.

PRICES ARE RISING FOR THE MOST PRESCRIBED DRUGS...

The vast majority of the top 20 drugs most prescribed to Medicare Part D beneficiaries saw price increases that exceeded inflation from 2016-2017 under President Trump.



...AND FOR THE MOST EXPENSIVE DRUGS

Not only are the most prescribed drugs increasing in price, many of the most expensive are increasing as well. The following examples, from among the most expensive drugs in Medicare Part D, are products whose high prices are related to gaming of the patent and exclusivity system – something the Trump administration blueprint doesn't address.

Lyrica—Price Increased 29% Last Year for Drug Treating Fibromyalgia, Neuropathic Pain, Epilepsy.

Even after 14 years on the market, the drug company Pfizer has ensured that Lyrica has no generic competition. Though the Trump Administration has touted Pfizer's agreement to postpone a recent round of arbitrary and egregious price hikes, Pfizer increased Lyrica's price by 29 percent during Trump's first year in office. The Trump Blueprint also does not address the practice of "evergreening," the maneuver Pfizer and others use to maintain market share by drawing customers to slightly tweaked version of their drug that has a renewed patent life and market exclusivity—before the original drug's patent expires, as Lyrica's will this December.

Humira—Price Increased Almost 19% Last Year for Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment.

Although Humira was approved sixteen years ago in 2002, its manufacturer AbbVie recently settled in court to keep biosimilar competitors off the market until 2023 at the earliest, by defending patents that have nothing to do with the efficacy of the drug. President Trump's Blueprint does nothing to address companies abusing the patent system to gain decades-long monopolies, instead treating patent expiration as a burden on companies.

Revlimid—Price Increased 25% in the Last 18 Months for Drug Treating Multiple Cancers, Rising to Almost \$700 a Pill. Although Revlimid was approved in 2005, the drug has no generic competition today due to Celgene's anticompetitive practices that have allowed it to monopolize the market. With no market pressures, Celgene has raised the price of Revlimid four separate times since President Trump's election in 2016, resulting in a 25 percent increase overall. One of these price hikes occurred *after* the announcement of President Trump's Blueprint was announced: the price of the cancer drug increased by 5 percent just this month, to \$695.48 per capsule.

Crestor—Blockbuster Drug Company Attempts to Abuse Orphan Drug Designation; Uses Coupons to Keep Prices High.

In 2016, thirteen years after Crestor was approved, AstraZeneca moved to block generic competition in court after gaining approval for use in a rare pediatric condition under the Orphan Drug Act. While the Orphan Drug Act is intended to create incentives for companies to invest in innovation for rare diseases, AstraZeneca used its orphan drug approval for the blockbuster drug Crestor to sue FDA in an attempt to prevent generic competition in the blood pressure market. Despite FDA's later approval of several generics, AstraZeneca has used co-pay coupons to keep patients on its more expensive brand drug, and hiked the price 8 percent between 2016 and 2017. The Trump Administration Blueprint makes no mention of how to address pharmaceutical "couponing" that undermines generic competition and keeps insurance premiums high.

Enbrel—Nearly 19% Increase in 2017 for 20 Year Old Drug Indicated for Several Chronic Diseases.

After 20 years on the market and a nearly 19% price increase in 2017, Amgen kicked off January 2018 with a nearly 10% price increase on its blockbuster drug Enbrel, despite the approval of Erelzi, a biosimilar for the drug, in August 2016. While Erelzi's sales have steadily increased since its approval in Europe just this past May, the drug is still not on sale in the U.S. due to a patent trial between Amgen and Novartis' Sandoz, creators of Erelzi. President Trump's Blueprint does not address patent litigation or offer any solutions to address the market failures that keep patients from accessing biosimilars.