

2021 Drug Pipeline & Pricing Cheat Sheet

New Drug Pipeline

The new drug pipeline focuses on manufacturer investments in developing high-cost brand, specialty, and orphan drugs. With more than 8,000 drugs in development, new drug launches will reach historically high levels over the next several years. New medicines will address significant unmet therapy needs across various disease states, including cancer, autoimmune conditions, and metabolic and nervous system disorders.

New indications for existing drugs is an area of the drug pipeline that may not be looked at closely but is worthy of attention. One example is the drug Rinvoq®, which is approved for Rheumatoid Arthritis. Rinvoq is pending FDA approval for moderate-to-severe active psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. The atopic dermatitis indication brings enormous potential for financial impact. Dupixent® skyrocketed to the top of many claim files in 2020, and this year may see Rinvoq hit the market, along with others, to treat atopic dermatitis.

2/3 of new drug launches will be specialty products over the next few years



There are several drug classes with notable products in the pipeline for 2021-2022: oncology, hematology, immunology, inflammatory diseases, and genetic disorders. Data analysis over the last 20 years shows that specialty drug costs increase at a similar rate on the pharmacy and medical side. Whether utilized in the medical channel or pharmacy channel, some of the top drugs to look for this year include:

TOP DRUGS IN THE 2020-2022 DRUG PIPELINE

Alzheimer's

Aducanumab (March 2021)

Multiple Sclerosis

Zeposia® (March 2020)

Bafiertam™ (April 2020)

Dimethyl fumarate (generic Tecfidera; August 2020)

Kesimpta® (August 2020)

Ponesimod (2021)

Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy

Viltepso® (2020)

Casimersen (2020)

Ataluren (2021)

Edasalonexent (2021)

Givinostat (2021)

Idebenone (2021)

Vamorolone (2021)

2021 Drug Pricing

With drug utilization slowed down significantly because of the virus, drug manufacturers saw no reason to slow down the chance to capitalize on the opportunity to raise prescription drug prices in 2020 and again to start 2021.

Drug price increases are not uncommon practices taken by drug manufacturers over a year, usually occurring at the beginning of the year and mid-year. The size of the price increases is not out of line with previous years. What's alarming is the higher number of drugs targeted for price hikes and that the increases were not related to any new clinical innovations.

Drug manufacturers raised drug list prices to start 2021 by an average of about 5.1%. While this is lower than the 5.8% average list price increases to start 2020, several are large and apply to some of the most commonly prescribed medications on the market.

Sample of the Top 2021 Drug List Price Increases, 7% or Higher

Drug	Indication	Price Increase
Venofen®	Iron deficiency, anemia	↑ 14.58%
Neoprofen®	Fever, pain relief	↑ 10.0%
Nocdurna®	Nocturia due to Nocturnal Polyuria	↑ 9.9%
Lidoderm®	Nerve pain, pain relief	↑ 9.9%
Percocet®	Moderate to severe pain (opioid)	↑ 9.9%
Xtampza ER®	Moderate to severe pain (opioid)	↑ 9.9%
Palforzia®	Peanut allergy	↑ 9.5%
Actiq®	Severe pain (opioid)	↑ 9.4%
Adderall®	ADHD, narcolepsy	↑ 9.4%
Pediarix®	Diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine	↑ 8.59%
Aplenzin®	Depression, smoking cessation	↑ 7.9%
Xifaxan®	Hepatic encephalopathy; traveler's diarrhea and irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhea	↑ 7.9%
Humira®	Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and uveitis (biologic)	↑ 7.4%
Imbruvica®	B cell cancers	↑ 7.4%
Orilissa®	Moderate to severe pain associated with endometriosis	↑ 7.4%
Rinvoq®	Moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis (biologic)	↑ 7.4%
Skyrizi®	Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (biologic)	↑ 7.4%
Shingrix®	Shingles vaccine	↑ 7.0%