Chap 1. I. General Drug Pricing: how does it work

Q1.

Q1. To kick things off, @ConsumerReports, can you generally describe the drug pricing situation as it stands now? #AskCUE
A1: Definitely. After drugmaker Mylan purchased EpiPen back in 2007, the company started to increase the price year after year. #askcue

A1: All told, the company hiked the price — between 400 and 500 percent in less than a decade. That’s a drastic increase. #AskCUE

A1: That’s a drastic increase for a decades-old drug that costs literally pennies to make. #AskCUE

Q2.

Q2. How do pharmaceutical companies set prices for drugs they produce? @ConsumerReports #AskCUE

A2: That’s a good question, @United4Evidence — and you may hear a variety of answers. #AskCUE

A2: But the truth is, pharmaceutical companies can set any price they want for drugs, and then raise those prices by any amount. #AskCUE
A2: There is really no basis for these price increases, and no transparency. #AskCUE

A2. We enjoyed this article by @ConsumerReports on fixing drug prices and found it helpful goo.gl/Zs4nUL #AskCUE @AnnieAppleseed

A2: Mylan has attributed its pricing to changes in the “insurance landscape” as more people enroll in high-deductible plans #AskCUE

A2. Most likely as part of the four P’s: Product, Price, Place, Promotion. #AskCUE twitter.com/united4evidenc...

Access to #NNT (Number Needed to Treat) info would be helpful for consumers & patients. #askCUE twitter.com/nc4hr/status/7...

Q3.

Q3. What are some of the direct results of drug price increases on consumers? #AskCUE @ConsumerReports
1/24/2018

Drug Pricing in the US

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

A3: In the case of EpiPen, we’ve heard from many consumers who are struggling to afford this medication. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence A3: For example, many parents rely on this drug to keep their children alive in an emergency. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

Q4.

Cochrane US
@UScochrane

Why don’t more consumers use generic drugs? #askCUE

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@UScochrane Consumers fill more than 85% of Rxs with generic drugs. #askcue

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@UScochrane Although and hundreds of generics have also shot up in price. #askcue

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@UScochrane There are fewer generic mfgs these days for some very old drugs = increase in prices. #askcue

A YEAR AGO
Consumer Reports @ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence A4: Definitely not an isolated situation. Consumers are greatly impacted by rising drug prices. #AskCUE

Our Bodies Ourselves @oboshealth

Great Q&A on drug pricing happening NOW! Tweet your question to #ASKCUE @ConsumerReports twitter.com/UScochrane/sta...

Consumer Reports @ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence A4: Accord’g to our recent poll, they are putting off paying other bills, even skimping on food - to afford meds. #AskCUE

NCHR @NC4HR

When drugs that are not proven to work cost $300,000, we all pay. #AskCUE @ConsumerReports @United4Evidence ow.ly/i0hY304Jd7b
WHEN DRUG PRICES RISE, QUALITY OF LIFE GOES DOWN

Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs conducted a nationally representative telephone poll of 4,015 adult Americans in March 2016. We found that 40 percent of people regularly take a prescription drug and on average take between four and five medications. To afford those, people made adjustments in household spending (see light blue bar below). But for the three in ten people (29 percent) who reported that they paid more money out of pocket for at least one of their drugs over the prior 12 months, the budget crunch was more dramatic (see darker blue bar).

- Experienced a cost increase in their drugs in the last 12 mo.
- Did not experience a cost increase in their drugs.

Spent less on entertainment and dining out 38%
Spent less on groceries 31%
Used your credit card more often 25%
Spent less on your family 25%
Postponed paying other bills 19%
Postponed retirement to maintain health insurance 10%

* Percentages won’t add up to 100 because people were able to report multiple actions taken.

@United4Evidence A4: Here you'll see just a handful of examples of how high drug prices impact consumers. #AskCUE pic.twitter.com/7lYwjDYTfa

CONSUMER REPORTS @CONSUMERREPORTS - A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports @ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence A4: Consumers also skip filling their Rx's, skip doses, take expired meds, and even share meds -- all b/c of costs. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports @ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence A4: Here's more from our recent poll on how high drug prices harm consumers. consumerreports.org/drugs/as-drug-... #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

Chap. 2 #EpiPen: What's the controversy?

Q5.
Q5. @ConsumerReports What are drug companies doing to ease the burden on consumers? @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: Some drug companies offer co-pay coupons and prescription assistance programs. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: For example, Mylan is offering a $300 co-pay coupon #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: But the fact of the matter is, the coupon won’t bring costs down for everyone. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

@United4Evidence A5: And the patient assistance program is only valid for uninsured patients who meet income requirements. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: For EpiPen, the bottom line is: we’re talking about a cheap drug that shouldn’t be $600+ #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO
**Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: This is prohibitive pricing. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

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**Q6.**

**Kay Dickersin**
@KayDickersin

Q6 What are some things consumers can do to lower the amount they pay for drugs?
@ConsumerReports #askCUE

A YEAR AGO

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**Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

@KayDickersin A6: People should start by talking to their doctor about cheaper alternatives. In many cases, this will be a generic #askcue

A YEAR AGO

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**Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

@KayDickersin A6: And shop around b4 filling that Rx. CR's secret shoppers have found that prices vary from one pharmacy to the next #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

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**Q7. miscellaneous**

**Helen Haskell**
@hhask

What about people paying high prices for drugs not likely to help? NNT site has info on some drug therapies #askcue thennt.com

A YEAR AGO

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**Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence A7: Patients should always talk to their M.D. about alternatives, taking into consider cost, safety, effectiveness. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO
Elin Silveous
@ElinSilveous

#ePatients --> #askCUE || #HCCosts twitter.com/oboshealth/sta...

A YEAR AGO

Elin Silveous
@ElinSilveous

Here's a link to folks focusing on #NNT thennt.com #askCUE #InformedConsumers twitter.com/hhask/status/7...

A YEAR AGO

Chap 3. Consumer advocacy and conflicts of interest

Q8

Kay Dickersin
@KayDickersin

Q8 How do we keep this issue in the public eye? The media tends to move on and then we are left high and dry @ConsumerReports #askcue

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@KayDickersin A8: Education. CR actively provides info to consumers on how to avoid paying too much for Rx's consumerreports.org/cro/health/pre... #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@KayDickersin A8: We also ask consumers to keep sharing their stories. This can help us advance change! stori.es/share/share-yo... #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

Q9.
Q10.

Helen Haskell
@hhask

Is the Medicare Part D prescription benefit law the reason drug prices are out of control?
cnbc.com/2016/09/29/con...

A YEAR AGO

Q10.

Helen Haskell
@hhask

Medicare Part D mandates drug coverage but forbids negotiating prices. Is this at the root of the
problem? #askcue cbsnews.com/news/did-landm...

A YEAR AGO

CUE Cochrane USA
@United4Evidence

Fantastic answers, @ConsumerReports! Any questions abt consumer advocacy in drug
pricing? #AskCUE @jkchilders @AnnieAppleseed @NC4HR

A YEAR AGO

Q11.

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence @jkchilders Yes! Q11: Some consumer grps are funded from industry. What
does this mean for drugs they advocate for? #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

CUE Cochrane USA
@United4Evidence

A11. #AskCUE The recent Musc dyst. drug approved by FDA shows how pharma can use pt
power to advocate their own interests @ConsumerReports

A YEAR AGO
A11. Consumer orgs w CoI's (ie majority funding from industry) can risk the credibility of all consumers #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

A11. ow.ly/n2sv304GvXp #ASKCUE @nytimes @ConsumerReports

Q12

@jkchilders @AnnieAppleseed @NC4HR Q12: How can consumer advocacy gps make sure they're working in the interest of their community #AskCUE

A12. Consumer groups should try to not take a majority of funding from industry #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

A 12. When consumer orgs become knowledge-based, not disease-based, & should learn about evidence-based healthcare #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

Q13.

@United4Evidence @jkchilders @AnnieAppleseed @NC4HR Q13: How can consumers use their power to restrict high costs of drugs? #AskCUE
CUE Cochrane USA  
@United4Evidence

A13. Ind. consumers should also become knowledge-based, and look at the evidence before advocating for anything. #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

A YEAR AGO

CUE Cochrane USA  
@United4Evidence

A 13. CUE has lots of free and easy access resources for consumers! us.cochrane.org/CUE #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports  
@ConsumerReports

For more on battling high Rx drug prices, consumers should check out @ConsumerReports’ resources as well consumerreports.org/cro/health/pre... #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO

CUE Cochrane USA  
@United4Evidence

#AskCUE @ConsumerReports Wow one hour gone already!! Feel free to continue the discussion on the CUE Facebook page facebook.com/groups/2070224...

A YEAR AGO

CUE Cochrane USA  
@United4Evidence

Thank you for participating in the #AskCUE Chat!! And thank you @ConsumerReports for a great discussion! Look out for our Storify!!

A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports  
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence Thank you for again for inviting us to participate in this impt conversation on the impact of rising Rx prices! #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO
Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports
@United4Evidence Thank you! #askcue
A YEAR AGO

Elin Silveous
@ElinSilveous
@United4Evidence Thank you for an interesting #AskCUE chat on medication costs.
A YEAR AGO

Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports
Echoing here with TY's to @AnnieAppleseed @ElinSilveous @jkchilders @KayDickersin @NC4HR @hhask @UScochrane @oboshealth #askcue
A YEAR AGO

Elin Silveous
@ElinSilveous
@ConsumerReports Thank you for an interesting #askCUE chat on medication pricing. Have a super weekend.
A YEAR AGO

Helen Haskell
@hhask
#askcue! twitter.com/hhask/status/7...
A YEAR AGO