

PROTECT ACCESS AND INNOVATION



The way we pay for medications is far more complex than a simple sound bite. It is an intricate chain as medicines wind their way from manufacturers to patients and their doctors. Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) play a major role in overall healthcare costs, and can significantly add to the price of patient care.

These companies you've never heard of are about to incite another massive drug price outrage

By Linette Lopez, Business Insider | Sept. 12, 2016

BUSINESS
INSIDER

“It's easy to see why EpiPen has become the focus of America's fury over drug prices. It treats potentially deadly allergic reactions — for example, in a child who is stung by a bee — and its price has spiked by over 500% in a few years. While it's easy to jump all over drugmakers, like EpiPen's maker, Mylan, other actors in the healthcare system ought to draw as much scrutiny.

“One group of companies, called pharmaceutical-benefit managers, or PBMs, serve as middlemen, and they touch every part of the purchase of a prescription drug.”

“[PBMs are] making bundles by keeping each player they deal with – pharmacies, insurers, drugmakers – partly in the dark. And those bundles, you could argue, are coming at the expense of the people who pay for healthcare.”

“...Real prices are just hard to come by. And because their hands are in all corners of the business — the lists that get you to customers, the assistance programs that get customers to pay, the pharmacies that can sell you the drugs — that suits PBMs just fine.”

Read more: <http://read.bi/2deB9Zl>

Protect Access & Innovation is an initiative to bring attention to the value that medical innovation brings to patients, our healthcare system and the overall economy, while exposing policies and proposals that threaten patient access to care.

California Life Sciences Association (CLSA) advances California's world-leading life sciences innovation ecosystem by advocating for effective national, state and local public policies and supporting entrepreneurs and life sciences businesses.