

Balancing Prescription Drug Innovation and Affordability

Thursday, October 7, 2021

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

Zoom Webinar

Multiple factors contribute to the final cost and price of drugs to payers and patients. While spending on prescription drugs constituted about 14 percent of overall national health expenditures in 2018, one in four Americans reported difficulty affording their medications. Additionally, as scientific advancement brings more complex specialty drugs and potentially curative cell and gene therapies to enter the market, the policy community and consumers are growing more concerned about the affordability of those drugs.

In this on the record session exclusively for journalists, expert panelists will explore the tension between the affordability of prescription drugs and the need to preserve advances in biomedical innovation. Speakers will instruct on the topic's background, including pricing trends, the current state of American biomedical research and development, and the current regulatory and reimbursement structures to encourage innovation. They will also discuss at a high level the proposals for change that might impact drug innovation as well as affordability for the federal government, consumers, and health care markets.

Speakers:

- **Rena M. Conti**, Ph.D., Associate Research Director of Biopharma & Public Policy, Boston University Institute for Health System Innovation & Policy
 - Rena M. Conti is the Associate Research Director of Biopharma & Public Policy for the Boston University Institute for Health System Innovation & Policy. She is also an Associate Professor of Markets, Public Policy, and Law at the Boston University Questrom School of Business. From 2006 through June 2018, Dr. Conti was an Associate Professor of Health Economics and Policy at the University of Chicago Medical School and the Harris School of Public Policy. Dr. Conti is a health economist whose research focuses on the organization, financing, and regulation of medical care. She has written extensively on the pricing, demand, and supply of prescription drugs.
- **Benedic N. Ippolito**, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute
 - Benedic N. Ippolito is a senior fellow in economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, where his research focuses on public finance and health economics. He studies health care financing, the pharmaceutical market and its regulations, and the effect of health care costs on the personal finances of Americans. Dr. Ippolito has been published in a variety of leading peer-reviewed academic and policy journals. These include the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Health Affairs, Tax Notes, and the National Bureau of Economic Research's Tax Policy and the Economy. He also regularly writes for broader audiences, and his work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Health Affairs Blog, and STAT, among others. He has also testified before Congress.

Moderator:

- **Mark E. Miller**, Ph.D., Executive Vice President of Health Care, Arnold Ventures
 - Mark E. Miller leads Arnold Ventures' work to lower the cost and improve the value of health care. He has more than 30 years of experience developing and implementing health policy, including prior positions as the executive director of Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; assistant director of Health and Human Resources at the Congressional Budget Office; deputy director of health plans at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; health financing branch chief at the Office of Management and Budget; and senior research associate at the Urban Institute. Dr. Miller has extensive experience identifying

emerging health care issues, developing policy solutions, working with policymakers, and engaging diverse stakeholders. Over the course of his career, he has been directly involved in the development of major health legislation such as the Balanced Budget Act; the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act; and the Affordable Care Act.

Session Background Materials

Key Resources *(listed chronologically, beginning with the most recent)*

“Biden Drug Pricing Plan Seeks to Balance Access and Innovation.” Sachs, R. *Health Affairs*. September 13, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Building a Resilient Rx Drug Supply: A New HHS Office and Other Steps.” Conti, R., Morton, F. *Health Affairs*. August 27, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Health Policy Handbook, Chapter 4: U.S. Food and Drug Administration.” Rawal, P., Whitlock, R. Alliance for Health Policy. July 20, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Health Policy Handbook, Chapter 5: Prescription Drug Pricing.” Rawal, P., Whitlock, R. Alliance for Health Policy. July 20, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Will Reducing Drug Prices Slow Innovation?” Ledley, F., Vaughan, G. Center for Integration of Science and Industry. August 12, 2021. Available [here](#).

“The FDA’s Approval of Aduhelm: Potential Implications across a Wide Range of Health Policy Issues and Stakeholders.” Sachs, R. *Health Affairs*. June 10, 2021. Available [here](#).

“The Use of Medicines in the U.S.” The IQVIA Institute. May 27, 2021. Available [here](#).

“The Variability of US Drug Prices: Lessons for Policy Debates.” Ippolito, B. American Enterprise Institute. May 18, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Drug Pricing Fact Sheet.” Arnold Ventures. February 2021. Available [here](#).

“Rebalancing High Prescription Drug Prices with Innovation Incentives.” Conti, R., David, F. *Health Affairs*. July 1, 2019. Available [here](#).

“Drug Pricing Conversations Must Take the Cost of Innovation into Consideration.” Garthwaite, C., Ippolito, B. *STAT*. January 11, 2019. Available [here](#).

“Prescription Drug Pricing Collected Works.” *Health Affairs*. Available [here](#).

Additional Resources *(listed chronologically, beginning with the most recent)*

“Inside the Battle for Drug Pricing Reform.” Levins, H. University of Pennsylvania Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. September 23, 2021. Available [here](#).

“2021 State Legislative Action to Lower Pharmaceutical Costs.” National Academy for State Health Policy. September 22, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Drug Pricing: Policy and Politics.” Ippolito, B., Sachs, R., Socal, M., et al. Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. September 17, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Comprehensive Plan for Addressing High Drug Prices: A Report in Response to the Executive Order on Competition in the American Economy.” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. September 9, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Drug Pricing Policy Savers Playbook.” Council for Informed Drug Spending Analysis. August 19, 2021. Available [here](#).

“CBO’s Simulation Model of New Drug Development.” Adams, C. Congressional Budget Office. August 2021. Available [here](#).

“Reform Medicare Part B to Improve Affordability and Equity.” Conti, R., Crosson, F., Coukell, A., et al. *Health Affairs*. June 25, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Intentionally Delayed Pharmaceutical Innovation under Perverse Incentives: Gilead’s HIV Pipeline as a Case Study.” Dickson, S., Killelea, A. *Health Affairs*. June 16, 2021. Available [here](#).

“FDA’s Approval of Biogen’s New Alzheimer’s Drug Has Huge Cost Implications for Medicare and Beneficiaries.” Cubanski, J., Neuman, T. Kaiser Family Foundation. June 10, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Making Cancer Treatments Affordable Today Won’t Hurt Tomorrow’s Innovation.” Conti, R., Frank, R., and Dach, L. *Fortune*. May 12, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Moving the Needle on Prescription Drug Costs: Using the Innovation Center and Other Demonstration Authority.” Freed, M., Cubanski, J., Neuman, T. KFF. March 25, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Drug Pricing Reform Enters a Big, New Battleground: States.” Arnold Ventures. February 23, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Projections of US Prescription Drug Spending and Key Policy Implications.” Conti, R., Turner, A., and Hughes-Cromwick, P. *JAMA Health Forum*. January 29, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Funding of Pharmaceutical Innovation during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Robinson, J. *JAMA*. January 14, 2021. Available [here](#).

“Balancing Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices and Innovation—Part 1.” Lieberman, S., Ginsburg, P., and Patel, K. *Health Affairs*. November 24, 2020. Available [here](#).

“Why Isn’t Innovation Helping Reduce Health Care Costs?” Cahan, E., Kocher, B., and Bohn, R. *Health Affairs*. June 4, 2020. Available [here](#).