#### UC San Diego Health

# Brand-name Drug Pricing in the US: The Medicare Negotiation Era

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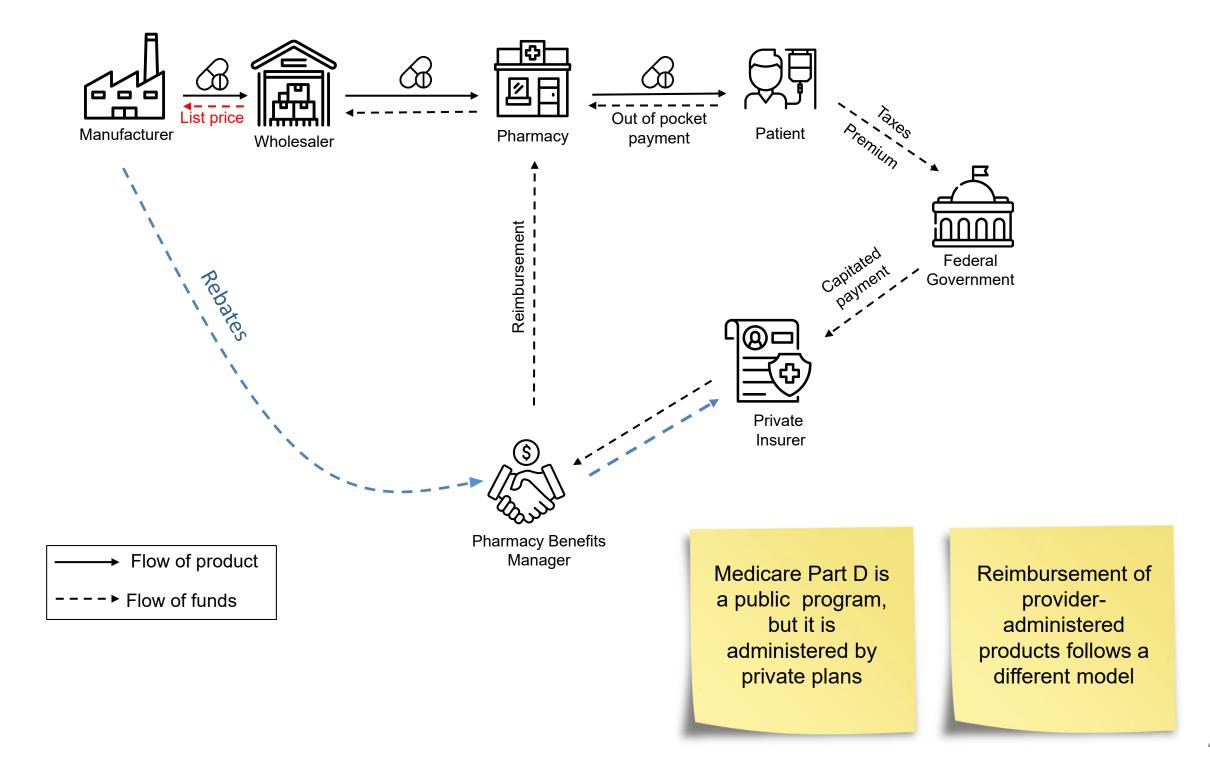


- Scientific advisory board / consulting for Pfizer/BMS on apixaban (not current)
- Funding from West Health Policy Center & The Commonwealth Fund

- How does Medicare pay for drugs dispensed by pharmacies?
- The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
  - Medicare price negotiation
  - Inflation rebates
  - Out-of-pocket limit

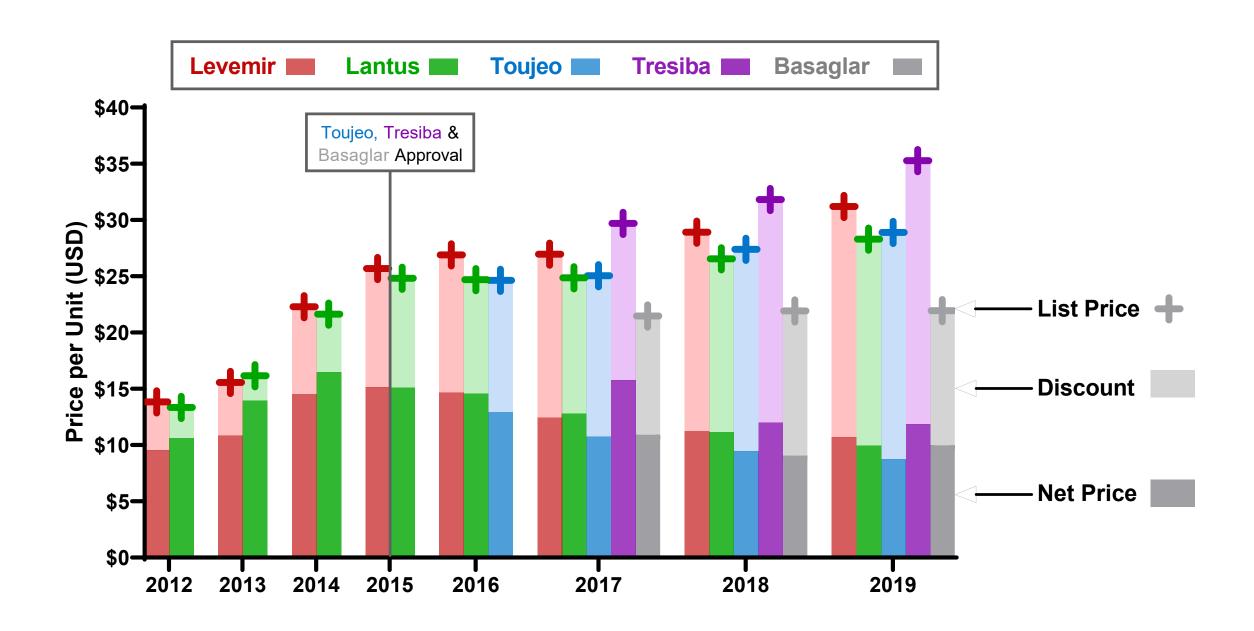


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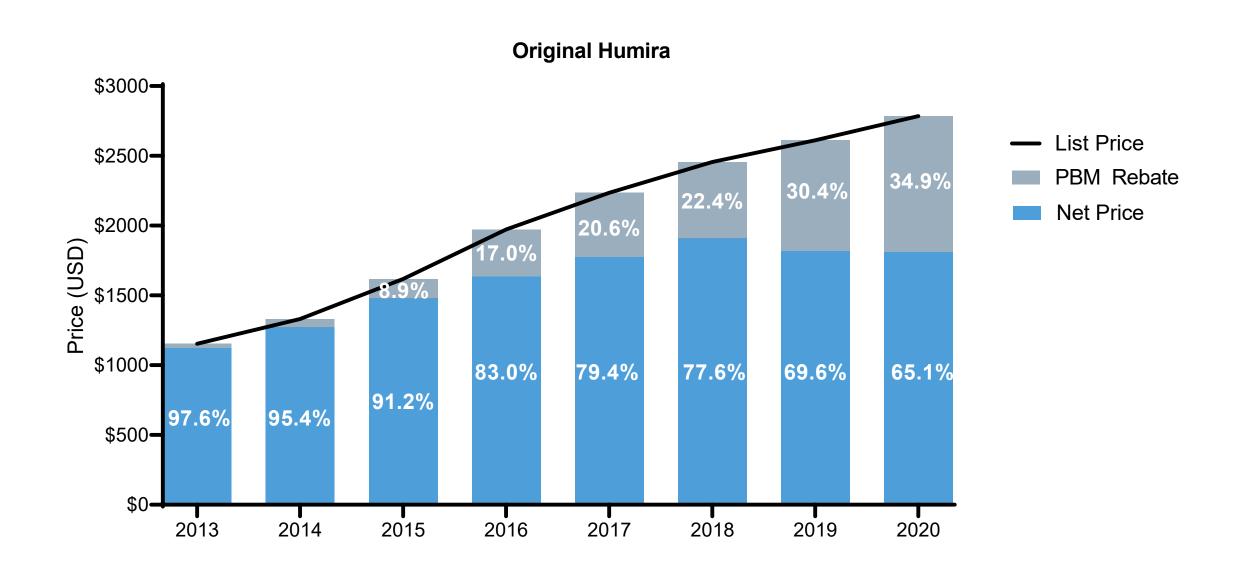


# Rising disconnect between list prices and net prices due to increasing rebates





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#### Drug pricing approach in Medicare before IRA

- Manufacturers freely set up list prices
- Part D plans negotiate discounts in exchange for formulary space
- Large variability in discounts across therapeutic classes based on:
  - Competition
  - Whether a drug belongs to a protected drug class



#### **Inflation Reduction Act**









- Medicare will negotiate prices of highest gross-spending drugs
  - 10 pharmacy-dispensed drugs in 2026 (selected in 2023)
  - 15 pharmacy-dispensed drugs in 2027
  - 15 pharmacy-dispensed or provider-administered drugs in 2028
  - 20 pharmacy-dispensed or provider-administered drugs per year after 2029

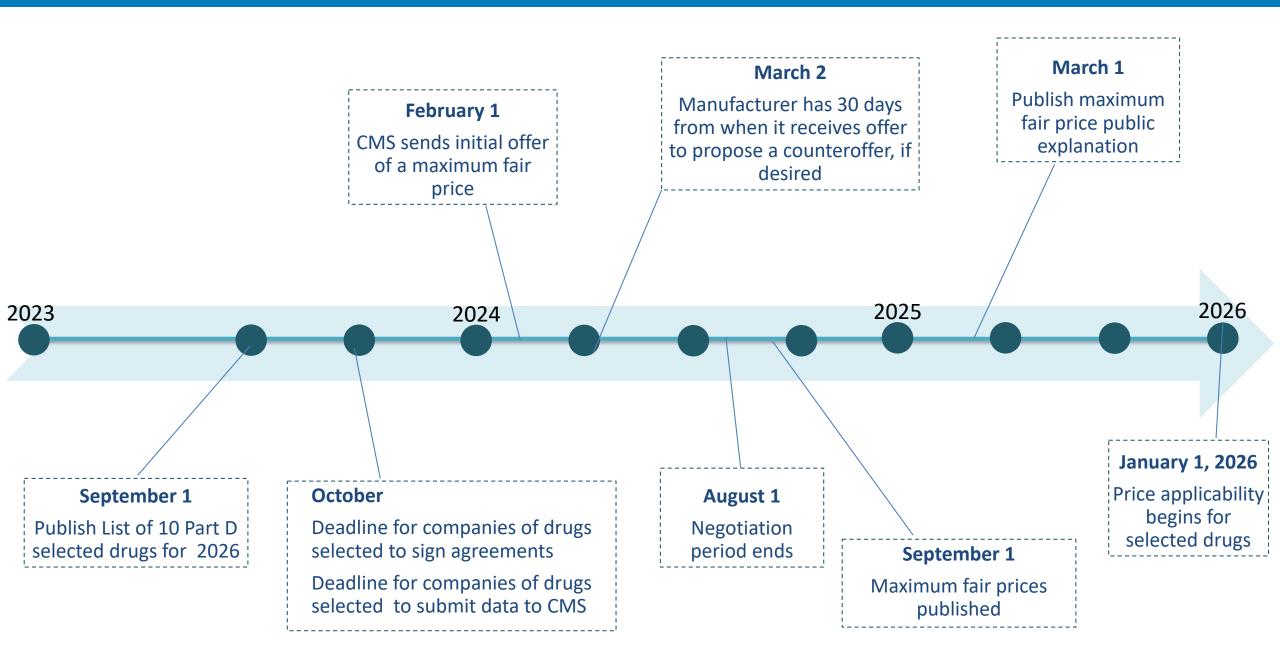
- Medicare (and not the plans) will negotiate
  - Negotiated price "maximum fair price" will apply to all Medicare plans



- Selection based on
  - Gross Medicare spending
  - Time on the market
    - Small Molecule Drugs 9 years from FDA approval
    - Biologics 13 years from FDA approval

- Drugs are ineligible for negotiation if
  - They have a generic / biosimilar marketed
  - They only have orphan indications
  - They account for 80% of company's revenue
  - They are plasma-derived







# First 10 drugs selected for 2026

Rank	Brand	Company	Therapeutic Area	Gross Spending
1	Eliquis	BMS	Cardiovascular	\$16.5B
2	Jardiance	ВІ	Cardiovascular, Diabetes	\$7B
3	Xarelto <sup>1</sup>	181	Cardiovascular	\$6B
4	Januvia	Merck & Co.	Diabetes	\$4.1B
5	Farxiga	AstraZeneca	Diabetes, Cardiovascular	\$3.3B
6	Entresto	Novartis	Cardiovascular	\$2.8B
7	Enbrel	Amgen	Immunomodulators	\$2.8B
8	Imbruvica	Abbvie	Oncology	\$2.6B
9	Stelara <sup>1</sup>	181	Immunomodulators	\$2.6B
10	Novolog, Fiasp	Novo Nordisk	Diabetes	\$2.6B



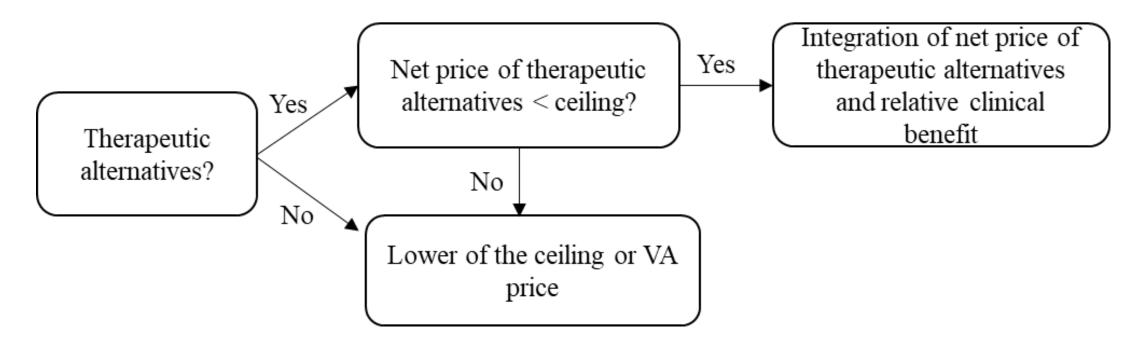
- The statute sets a cap for the negotiated price, which is the lower of:
  - Average net price paid by Part D plans in 2022 (after discounts)
  - Minimum discount based on time since approval, until 2030:
    - » 25% for 9-16 years
    - » 60% for 16+years



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  - Current market-based approach to price negotiation:
    - Will continue to apply on the earlier years after market entry
    - Will set the reference for price negotiation once a drug is eligible for negotiation



Simplified overview of process to determine initial price offer



- Qualitative integration of clinical benefit and pricing data
  - No implicit threshold of willingness to pay
  - No QALY-based data
- Other factors will be used to adjust price offer: unmet need, population-specific data, R&D costs, production and distribution costs, % of R&D subsidized by federal funds

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- What is considered a therapeutic alternative?
- How is the price clinical benefit trade-off quantified?



#### **Inflation Reduction Act**









#### Out-of-pocket maximum

- Out-of-pocket expenses towards pharmacy-dispensed drugs capped at \$2,000 / year
  - Will benefit 15% of beneficiaries (3.1-3.5 million)
  - Average savings of \$1,529/beneficiary
- No limit for provider administered drugs



#### **Inflation Reduction Act**



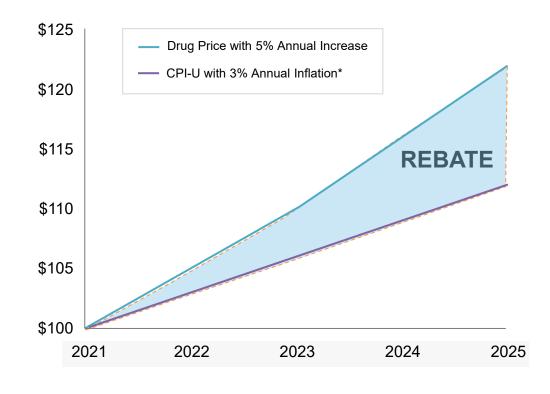




#### Inflation discounts

- Drugs with prices that increase faster than inflation will be subject to rebates for the amount that exceeds inflation
- Price protection against post-launch increases
- Concerns regarding incentives for higher launch prices

#### **Illustration of Price Increase Penalty**





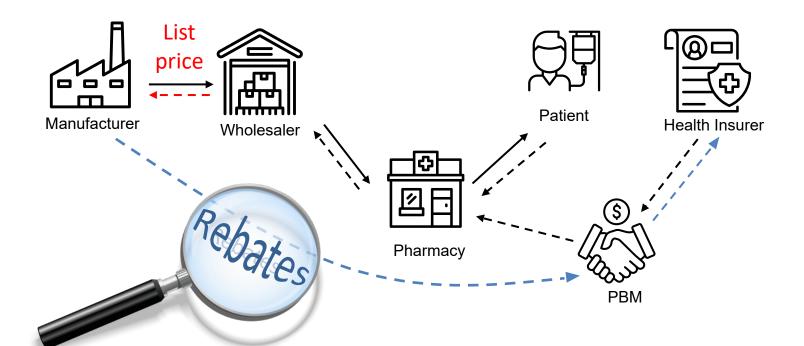
%△ CPI-U = 13% (1.00 to 1.13) %△ P = 22% (\$100 to \$122) ⇒ rebate = \$122 - \$113 = \$9



Inflation index is consumer price index January 2021

# Takeaway Points

- The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is the most significant pharmaceutical policy reform in the US since Medicare Part D was enacted
- Medicare price negotiation may be the most known provision, but not the only one
  - Inflation discounts provide protection from post-launch increases and apply to all drugs
  - Out-of-pocket maximum will limit patient liability for pharmacy-dispensed drugs
- Private insurer negotiation for rebates will remain the main approach
  - Before drugs become eligible for negotiation
  - For drugs ineligible for negotiation





# Thank you!

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