



[RunawayRx](#), a project of the California Association of Health Plans, highlights noteworthy articles and information on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing.

The acting administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, one of – if not the – biggest jobs in health care, added to the growing chorus of voices that have sounded the alarm over aggressive drug price increases. In an interview with POLITICO, Andy Slavitt has a goal to tackle high priced drugs in the next nine months.

Health care's next big issue: Drug costs

April 28, 2016 | By Dan Diamond

POLITICO

“The No. 1 health policy challenge facing the next administration — of either party — may well be the cost of drugs, according to a top administration health official.

“‘If we don't address this problem in the next four or five years, and prescription drug costs grow as they've been growing, this will be one of the top three issues for my successor, if not the No. 1 issue,’ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services acting administrator Andy Slavitt said in an [exclusive interview](#) with POLITICO Pro's new ‘Pulse Check’ podcast.

“Policymakers have already focused on insurance coverage expansion and reforming payments to hospitals and doctors. Drugs are next.”

– **Andy Slavitt**
acting Administrator
Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services

“An IMS Health [report](#) released this month found that drug list prices increased 12 percent in 2015 — the second straight year of double-digit growth — and national spending on cancer and hepatitis drugs and other special medicines has doubled in the past five years.

“The nation's mounting drug spending is getting traction on the campaign trail and in Congress. Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have decried the ban on letting Medicare negotiate with pharmaceutical companies, and both the Senate and House have launched investigations into why some drugmakers have dramatically hiked their prices...

“...[H]e framed the growing focus on drug prices as part of the nation's evolving debate over health reform. Policymakers have already focused on insurance coverage expansion and reforming payments to hospitals and doctors. Drugs are next.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/04/health-care-drug-costs-222588#ixzz479g18OM6>

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The California Association of Health Plans' RunawayRx project sheds light on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing and how it impacts health care affordability, encouraging a route toward sustainable pricing. For more information, please visit www.RunawayRx.org or follow us on Twitter at [@Runaway_Rx](https://twitter.com/Runaway_Rx).