



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

While the country is grappling with an opioid addiction epidemic, drug companies are taking advantage of increased demand for a life-saving drug that can reverse opioid overdose by spiking the price, right as the Obama administration is working to make the drug more available, as reported by [Politico](#). These types of predatory pricing tactics have become increasingly common, highlighting the need for transparency in Rx pricing.

Price spikes for life-saving drug

Sarah Karlin-Smith | May 16, 2016

POLITICO

“The price of a life-saving drug that can reverse an opioid overdose is soaring, just as the Obama administration and Congress are pushing to make it more available.

“The rising price for naloxone is causing some emergency response departments to run out of the drug, while many public health groups are growing short of the cash needed to buy it and must rely on donations. It also means two public health crises are colliding — the politically charged debate about high drug prices and the growing concern about lethal addiction.

“You would hope as we get more preparations they would get more competitive and start undercutting prices, but so far no dice.”

- Sharon Stancliff
Harm Reduction Coalition

“Prices of some versions of the drug have risen as much as 17-fold in the past two years...

“The price rise trajectory doesn’t fit the narrative the pharmaceutical industry has been putting forward, which portrays companies like Martin Shkreli’s former drugmaker Turing Pharmaceuticals as unique ‘bad actors’ taking advantage of market failures. Shkreli’s company raised the price of an AIDS drug.

“Five versions of naloxone are now on the market — no failure there — and still, its price keeps rising.

“The list price of Kaleo Pharma’s auto-inject version — specifically approved for a people without medical training to use in a life-threatening crisis — soared from \$575 to \$3,750 per two-dose package in just two years, according to Truven Health Analytics.”

Read more at <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/05/drug-prices-addiction-223192>.

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).