

RUNAWAY

AFFORDABLE PRICES FOR REAL CURES



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

A new report exposes recent price hikes by major generics manufacturer Mylan Laboratories. STAT News reminds readers that the industry's pattern of six-figure launch prices for new medications and significant increases on decades-old brand name and generics have become prime targets for congressional investigations and a standard talking point in the ongoing presidential campaign. California will soon consider important legislation to address skyrocketing drug prices when it hears Senate Bill 1010 in the Assembly Health Committee. Policymakers should protect patients and taxpayers by requiring advance notice and justification before price hikes.

Mylan raised prices for some drugs by huge amounts

STAT

By Ed Silverman | June 10, 2016

"You can add Mylan Laboratories to the list of drug makers boosting prices by big amounts.

"Over the past six months, the company, which is one of the world's largest purveyors of generic medicines, raised prices more than 20 percent on two dozen products. And Mylan also boosted prices by more than 100 percent on seven other products, according to Wells Fargo analyst David Maris, who called some of the price hikes 'exceptionally large.'"

"[I]n this environment, huge prices are 'beacons for scrutiny.' [Wells Fargo analyst David Maris] added, however, that he does 'not believe the price increases come without a real cost to patients...'"

Examples of significant price hikes include:

- a 542 percent increase for ursodiol, a generic medicine used to treat gallstones,
- a 444 percent increase for metoclopramide, a generic drug that treats gastroesophageal reflux disease, and
- a 400 percent boost in the price for dicyclomine, which combats irritable bowel syndrome.

"The price hikes occur amid ongoing turmoil over the cost of medicines. As we noted Thursday when writing about recent Pfizer price increases, the focus has largely been on newer medicines for such hard-to-treat diseases as hepatitis C and some forms of cancer, but concerns have extended to some generic drugs, which have traditionally been lower-cost alternatives."

Read more at: <https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2016/06/10/mylan-drug-prices-increase/>.

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/RunawayRx).