

## Pharmacy Briefing | February 2022

THE LATEST ON PHARMACY NEWS, TRENDS, AND INSIGHTS

---

**Brian Anderson, MBA** | Principal

**Rebekah Bayram, FSA, MAAA, FCA** | Principal and Consulting Actuary

**Marc Guieb, PharmD, RPh** | Consultant

### Highlights

- **CVS Health** publishes “2021 Drug Trend Report”
- **Elixir** publishes “Perspective on the Rx Pipeline” report
- **Clarivate** publishes “Drugs to Watch in 2022”
- **Gilead** takes action against fraudulent distribution of HIV medications

### FDA Approvals and Launches

- **Rinvoq (upadacitinib)**, an anti-inflammatory drug, receives additional approval to treat atopic dermatitis.
- **Skyrizi (risankizumab)**, previously approved to treat plaque psoriasis, receives additional approval to treat psoriatic arthritis.
- **Cibinqo (abrocitinib)** is approved to treat atopic dermatitis.
- **Quviviq (daridorexant)** is approved to treat insomnia.

### News

#### CVS Health publishes “2021 Drug Trend Report”

- The PBM reported a 2.4% overall drug trend.
- Specialty drugs drove 54% of overall drug spending; the PBM reported a 5.8% specialty drug trend.

[Read more](#)

#### Elixir publishes “Perspective on the Rx Pipeline” report

- The report summarizes developments to watch in 2022, including research in the hemophilia gene therapy space, the launch of a generic alternative Revlimid (lenalidomide), increased availability of interchangeable biosimilars, and updates to treatment guidelines for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) therapy.

[Read more](#)

#### Clarivate publishes “Drugs to Watch in 2022”

- The report discusses seven investigational drugs forecasted to reach blockbuster status in five years.
- Drugs highlighted include two treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and one treatment for type 2 diabetes that has demonstrated superiority over semaglutide.

[Read more](#)

## Gilead takes action against fraudulent distribution of HIV medications

- The manufacturer uncovered illegal schemes involving over 85,000 bottles of counterfeit and tampered products resold to pharmacies using counterfeit supply chain documentation.
  - Gilead reports that many of the counterfeits originated from suppliers who purchased Gilead HIV medication from individuals after it was dispensed to them.

[Read more](#)

## Novo Nordisk and Sanofi publish annual company reports

- Both manufacturers reported aggregate increases in list prices accompanied with decreases in net pricing.

[Read more \(1\)](#) [Read more \(2\)](#)

## Michigan passes three bills legislating PBMs and pharmacies

- House Bill 4348 prohibits spread pricing, pharmacist gag clauses, and requires PBMs to file transparency reports.
- House Bill 4351 prohibits PBMs from excluding or discriminating against pharmacies that they have no financial interest in.
- House Bill 4352 allows pharmacists and pharmacies to disclose prices of comparative generic and brand name drugs.

[Read more](#)

## Nevada joins Northwest Prescription Drug Consortium

- The group, created in 2006 between Washington and Oregon, leverages the states' combined purchasing power to negotiate better drug pricing.

[Read more](#)

## Drug Channels discusses and compares copay accumulators and maximizers

- These two strategies can reduce plan spending on brand drugs by fully leveraging the value of manufacturer coupons.

[Read more](#)

## Clinical Trials

### Roctavian (valoctocogene roxaparvovec) meets all efficacy endpoints in phase 3 trial

- The high-cost gene therapy would be used to treat hemophilia A and will be submitted for FDA approval in 2022.

[Read more](#)

**Contact Us** [myrxconsultant@milliman.com](mailto:myrxconsultant@milliman.com)

**Follow Us**



---

Milliman, Inc. | 1301 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3800, Seattle, WA 98101, USA

If you no longer wish to receive this email, please reply to the sender with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

[Terms of Use](#) | [Copyright 2021 Milliman, Inc. All rights reserved.](#) | [Privacy policy](#)