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Prescription Drug Prices Jumped More Than 10 Percent In 2015

During 2015, overall prescription drug prices rose over 10 percent according to Truveris, a healthcare data company. This marks the third straight year the prescription drug industry has seen a double-digit increase in pricing.

While the majority of drugs increased in price, the level of increase varied based on the type of drug. Those still under patent rose 14.77 percent, while specialty drugs increased by 9.21 percent. Surprisingly, generic drugs also saw a mild increase in cost at 2.93 percent.

Although some pharmaceutical companies have made an effort to stay below the radar regarding increasing drug costs, this topic is unlikely to disappear from government conversations during 2016.

Source: [The Washington Post](#)



U.S. Limits Obamacare Sign-Up Periods In Move To Please Insurers

The U.S. government has responded to insurers' complaints to limit the "special sign-up" windows they provide individuals looking to purchase coverage under the Affordable Care Act outside of the normal enrollment period.

Some insurance companies, including UnitedHealth Group, have stated that they may leave the ACA marketplace because many of the individuals who sign up outside the regular enrollment periods are more costly to insure. The government's response included closing down sign-ups for six limited circumstances, including COBRA coverage.

This change makes having a top notch COBRA program, like TPSC's COBRAex, critical. With COBRAex, employees are empowered to make the best health plan decision possible with an online comparison tool and proactive support.

Source: [Bloomberg](#)

