First Last Name

English II

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Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals

“The Pharmaceutical Industry.” *True Cost of Heathcare*, truecostofhealthcare.org/the\_pharmaceutical\_industry/.

Like everything in medicine, there are complexities in the issue, but at the center, it comes to something simple: The pharmaceutical companies said we need to pay ultra-high prices for patented medications so they have the money to develop more wonder drugs. In the U.S., we pay much more for prescription drugs than almost anyone else in the world. Name brands always cost more than generics, but the name-brand drugs cost far more in the U.S. than in the rest of the world. The pharmaceutical companies tell us that they turn these high prices into research toward new cures for diseases. It is true, we in the U.S. seem to be picking up most of the research tab for the rest of the world, but if we are curing diseases, maybe it is worth it. The pharmaceutical companies put about 17% of high drug costs back into research.

“Snapshot of the American Pharmaceutical Industry.” Executive and Continuing Professional Education, 2 Feb. 2017, [www.hsph.harvard.edu/ecpe/snapshot-of-the-american-pharmaceutical-industry/](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ecpe/snapshot-of-the-american-pharmaceutical-industry/).

The past few decades have been especially profitable for the American pharmaceutical industry, even more so since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. As of the spring of 2015, Obamacare had expanded insurance coverage to an additional 16.9 million Americans who were previously uninsured. This growth in the insured population has contributed to increases in overall health care spending in the U.S., in part due to rapid increases in spending for prescription drugs. “In the U.S., we allow price negotiations, discounts, and rebates,” Seeley says. What this means in layman’s terms is that there are different prices for the same drug, depending on who is paying the bill. These rebates and discounts are all confidential. “Everyone talks about the high price of drugs in the United States but there is little transparency on how much is really being paid by each purchaser,” she says. a study conducted by York University researchers found that pharmaceutical manufacturers in the U.S. spend nearly twice as much on marketing their products than they do on research and development. In addition, much research and development investment from large manufacturers are spent on incremental improvements to existing products.

It, Making. “Meeting the Global Health Challenge: the Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry.” Making It Magazine, [www.makingitmagazine.net/?p=6046](http://www.makingitmagazine.net/?p=6046).

Health is a crucially important social and economic asset – a cornerstone for human development. Improving global health, particularly among the poor, is an international development priority. Worldwide, over the past four decades, impressive advances have been made: deaths of under-fives have dropped to their lowest level in six decades; more women get skilled help during childbirth; more people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and deaths from malaria have been reduced by 20%. But enormous challenges remain. ”Changing this is a sustainable development priority, but there is no silver bullet: tackling the cycle of poverty and poor health is complex and something no single organ of society can do alone. It involves more than reducing the price of medicine. It requires partnership along the entire health value chain – from researching neglected diseases and training personnel, to reorienting policy choices and the distribution of resources at global, national and local levels.”