HHS Announces First 10 Drugs Up for Price Negotiation

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, recently selected the 10 drugs for which they will begin negotiating prices as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. The medications are Eliquis; Enbrel; Entresto; Farxiga; Fiasp, Fiasp FlexTouch, Fiasp PenFill, NovoLog, NovoLog FlexPen, NovoLog PenFill; Imbruvica; Januvia; Jardiance; Stelara; and Xarelto.

The agency picked the medications from a list of 50 of the most expensive drugs covered under Medicare Part D. The selected drugs, which treat conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, autoimmune diseases, and cancer, cost Medicare $50.5 billion between June 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023—about 20% of prescription drug costs covered by Part D in that period. More than 8 million Medicare Part D beneficiaries spent $3.4 billion out of pocket for the drugs in 2022.

The government will send initial offers to drug companies by next February, and the negotiation process will continue until August 1. Any new negotiated prices will go into effect in 2026. Additional drugs covered under Medicare, including some covered under Part B, will be selected for negotiation in the coming years, HHS said.

— Emily Harris

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.