

Access to MS Medications

Request: Support accountability and transparency on medication price increases above 10% in a single year and 25% over three years

All Medications

- The 2016 bipartisan and bicameral FAIR Drug Pricing Act requires manufacturers to submit a transparency and justification report 30 days before a price increase of more than 10% in a 12-month period.
- We support the concept in the FAIR Drug Pricing Act, as well as similar accountability and transparency for three-year cumulative price increase more than 25%.
- Both innovation and affordable access are critical to ensure that people receive the medication and treatments they need.
- Nearly one-third of branded medications increased in price by 20% in 2015.ⁱ
- Despite Congressional and media scrutiny of increasing medication prices, prices continued to increase in 2016 and 2017.
- Three manufacturers have publicly promised to keep annual price increase under 10% (Allergan, AbbVie, Novo Nordisk).

MS Disease-Modifying Therapies

- In 2004, the average wholesale price of available MS disease-modifying therapies (DMT) was \$16,000. In 2013, the average price was \$61,000; in 2017, the average price of an MS DMT is \$83,688 (all average wholesale prices).
 - All of the top 10 specialty medication classes, which include MS, increased in spend and all had increases in the price of the medications.ⁱⁱ
 - In 2004, the cost of DMT accounted for about half of the direct medical costs for treating someone with MS; today it is nearly three-quarters of the cost of treating someone with MS.
 - Between 2012 and 2017, the mean annual percent increase in cost ranged from 0 to 14.4%. Nearly three-quarters of the MS DMTs average more than one price increase per year.
 - DMT prices in the United States are two to three times higher than in comparable countries.
 - The continual escalating prices of MS disease-modifying therapies are creating barriers to people with MS getting these life-changing medications. People with MS need medications and the process for getting them to be affordable, simple and transparent.
- nationalmssociety.org/makemedsaccessible

What is multiple sclerosis (MS)?

- MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.
- MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.
- Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.
- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted.

MS disease-modifying therapies

- A growing body of evidence indicates that early and ongoing treatment with a disease-modifying therapy (DMT) is the best way to modify the course of the disease, prevent accumulation of disability, and protect the brain from damage due to MS.
- Despite more than a dozen disease-modifying therapies (including a generic) available to treat relapsing forms of MS, competition has not driven down prices.
- All MS DMTs cost approximately \$66,000-\$91,800 per year (average wholesale price), and the prices continue to rise each year.

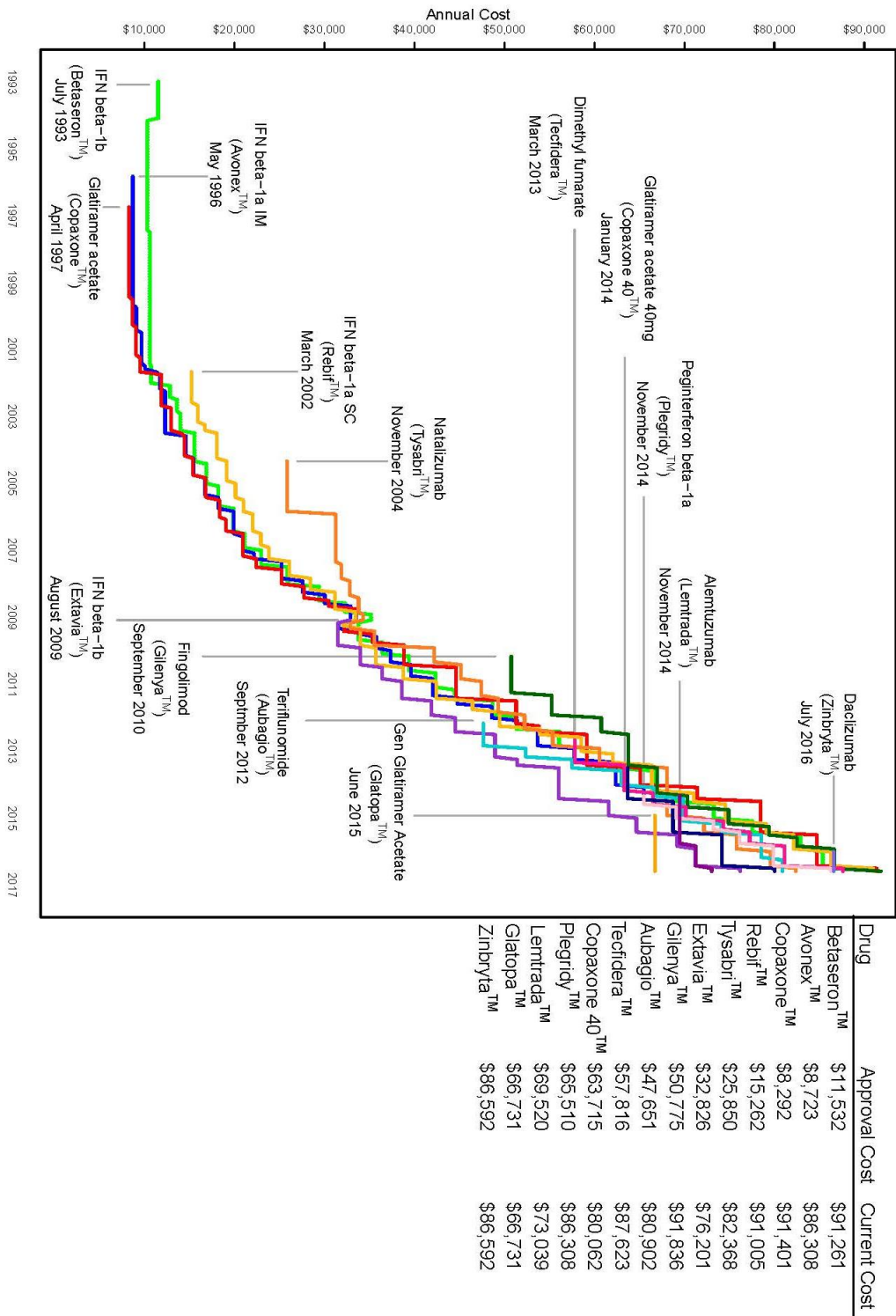


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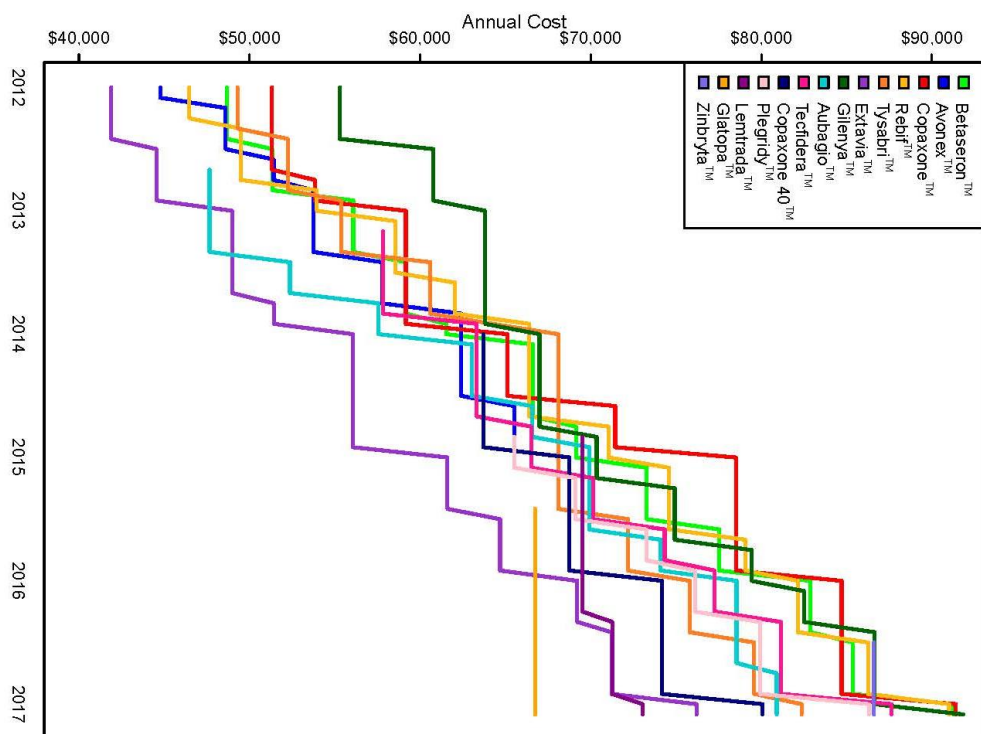
ⁱ *2015 Drug Trend Report*. The Express Scripts Lab: Express Scripts; March 2016.

ⁱⁱ *2015 Drug Trend Report*.

Trends in Annual Disease Modifying Therapy Costs 1993-2017



Trends in Annual Disease Modifying Therapy Costs 2012-2017



Drug	2017 Cost*	2012 Cost**	Mean Annual % Increase in Cost	Mean Number of Increases per Year	Mean % Change per Increase
Betaseron™	\$91,261	\$48,676	13.4%	2.2	5.9%
Avonex™	\$86,308	\$44,781	14%	2.2	6.2%
Copaxone™	\$91,401	\$51,315	12.2%	1.4	8.6%
Rebif™	\$91,005	\$46,464	14.4%	2.2	6.3%
Tysabri™	\$82,366	\$49,294	10.8%	1.8	5.9%
Extavia™	\$76,201	\$41,883	12.7%	1.8	6.9%
Gilenya™	\$91,836	\$55,295	9.4%	1.6	5.8%
Aubagio™	\$80,902	\$47,651†	14.2%	1.6	6.8%
Tecfidera™	\$87,623	\$57,816†	11.4%	1.8	6.1%
Copaxone 40™	\$80,062	\$63,715†	7.9%	1	7.9%
Plegridy™	\$86,308	\$65,510†	9.6%	1.7	5.7%
Lentradra™	\$73,039	\$69,520†	1.7%	0.7	2.5%
Glatopa™	\$66,731	\$66,731†	0%	0	0%
Zinbrya™	\$86,592	\$86,592†	0%	0	0%

*February 2017
**January 2012

†Market entry cost if approved after 2012

Methodology adapted from Hartung et al.¹ We estimated acquisition costs using average wholesale price (AWP) published by First Databank. AWP reporting was phased out in 2011 and acquisition costs were then estimated using wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) with the conversion AWP = 1.2 × WAC. We applied a 12% discount to AWP, the median discount that state Medicaid programs reimburse pharmacies, to estimate the amount paid to pharmacies by third-party payers.

Package insert for Lentradra™ states initial dose is five consecutive daily infusions with three consecutive daily infusions in subsequent year. We estimate the annual cost for Lentradra™ based on the use of four vials.

1. Hartung DM, Bourdette DN, Ahmed SM, Whitham RH. The cost of multiple sclerosis drugs in the US and the pharmaceutical industry. Too big to fail? Neurology. 2015;84(21):2185-2192.