

# Pharmacy Briefing | December 2025

The latest on pharmacy news, trends, and insights

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## Highlights

- **Evernorth** announces transition to “transparent, rebate-free” pricing model
- Federal government launches direct-to-consumer website **TrumpRx**
- **California** passes Senate Bill 41, introduces new PBM regulations in the state

## U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals and launches

- **Uzedly (long-acting risperidone)** receives additional indication to treat Bipolar I disorder.
- **Jascayd (nerandomilast)** is approved to treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.
- **Libtayo (cemiplimab-rwlc)** is approved as the first immunotherapy for adjuvant treatment of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, a type of skin cancer.
- **Rhapsido (remibrutinib)** is approved to treat chronic spontaneous urticaria resistant to antihistamine treatment.

## News

### Evernorth announces transition to “transparent, rebate-free” pricing model

- The pricing model will become the standard option available to all Evernorth’s pharmacy benefits clients, including self-funded clients, in 2028.
- Evernorth also announced that its members will pay the lowest available cost for medicines, “whether it is the Evernorth negotiated price, their copay, or a cash discount price.”

[Read more](#)

### Federal government launches direct-to-consumer website TrumpRx

- The website is currently non-operational but is listed as “coming soon in January 2026.”
- According to the whitehouse.gov website, currently partnered manufacturers include Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and EMD Serono.

[Read more \(1\)](#) [Read more \(2\)](#) [Read more \(3\)](#) [Read more \(4\)](#)

### California passes Senate Bill 41, introduces new PBM regulations in the state

- The bill enacts several PBM regulations, including the prohibition of steerage toward PBM-affiliated pharmacies, the banning of spread pricing, and the negotiation of “exclusive arrangements with manufacturers.”

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

### **Colorado becomes first state to cap the price of a prescription drug**

- The state set an upper payment limit for autoimmune drug *Enbrel* (etanercept) of \$583.59 per unit for both government agencies and commercial plans that provide health insurance for state residents.
- The effective date of the regulation is currently set for January 1, 2027.

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

### **Manufacturers launch new wave of direct-to-consumer drug platforms**

- The AmgenNow program gives consumers access to cholesterol drug *Repatha* (evocolumab) at a monthly price of \$239, touted as the lowest available price among economically developed countries.
- Novartis and Boehringer Ingelheim are launching programs for *Cosentyx* (secukinumab) and *Spiriva Respimat* (tiotropium), respectively.

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

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates immunization guidelines**

- The updates pertain to COVID-19, chickenpox, and measles, mumps, and rubella vaccinations.
- COVID-19 vaccinations currently do not require a prescription; a proposal to require a prescription was rejected by a narrow margin by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

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

### **Fifteen States coordinate to form Governors Public Health Alliance**

- The Alliance's purpose is to "strengthen emergency preparedness, improve communication, share data and expertise, and ensure states and territories can respond quickly and consistently to emerging health threats."

[Read more](#)

### **Purchaser Business Group on Health (PBGH) launches Health Care Data Demonstration Project to promote transparency in drug pricing**

- The tools combine data from five large employers to estimate what a "fair price" for a drug or service should be compared to what an employer actually paid.
- The group also published a white paper detailing key market price findings and data quality findings.

[Read more](#)

### **Study finds significant cost differences between sites of care, health insurers across 13 common procedures**

- The study found that hospital outpatient departments were associated with 78% higher costs compared to ambulatory surgical centers.
- The study also found wide variations in costs depending on insurer, even within identical sites of care.

[Read more](#)

### **Study finds direct-to-consumer pharmacy associated with higher out-of-pocket costs but significantly lower overall costs**

- The study compared drug pricing from Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company with pricing from several commercial insurance plans.

[Read more](#)

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