

NEWS DIGEST

- NICE recommends first treatment in two decades for sickle cell disease
- WHO committee recommends action on high-priced essential medicines
- Majority of U.S. voters approve of giving Medicare drug price negotiation authority
- Northern Ireland could face medicine shortages after Brexit grace period ends next year

NICE RECOMMENDS FIRST TREATMENT IN TWO DECADES FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE

THE NEWS

For the first time in 20 years, a new therapy for sickle cell disease is to be made available on the NHS. Crizanlizumab (Adakveo, Novartis) is recommended by NICE as a treatment option for preventing recurrent sickle cell crises in people aged 16 or over.

Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder characterised by red blood cells that become sickle-shaped, leading to clumping and blockages in the small blood vessels. These blockages can cause a loss of blood flow and severe pain in episodes known as vaso-occlusive crises (VOCs), or sickle cell crises. The frequency and severity of VOCs is unpredictable, and each episode can take days or weeks to recover, sometimes requiring hospitalisation.

Crizanlizumab is a new intravenous treatment option that can be taken on its own or alongside hydroxycarbamide.

THE IMPACT

Clinical evidence suggests that people treated with crizanlizumab have significantly fewer sickle cell crises in a year than those receiving other standard treatment options.

source: <https://bit.ly/3mw5q68>



WHO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS ACTION ON HIGH-PRICED ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

THE NEWS

A World Health Organisation committee has recommended the agency forms a working group, with the objective of exploring high-priced medicines which are considered essential, but unaffordable in low-affluent countries.

This comes as part of a report about treatments to be added to the WHO list of essential medicines. The list contains the most effective, safe and cost-effective drugs for treating high-priority illnesses and running a functioning health care system. The list itself is influential because many countries consult it to determine reimbursement.

THE IMPACT

“The list has been very conservative when it comes to newer products that don’t have low-cost generic or biosimilar alternatives,” Jamie Love of Knowledge Ecology International noted in a blog post. “The fact that this excludes many important drugs was made explicit in the new report. The encouraging news is that the WHO is now proposing a significant review of policies to address the effective but expensive category of drug, including policy interventions that can make products more affordable.”

source: <https://bit.ly/3Dh5IKk>



MAJORITY OF U.S. VOTERS APPROVE OF GIVING MEDICARE DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION AUTHORITY

THE NEWS

A new poll found that 56% of voters support giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices for certain products, but only 50% want it to be included in a major infrastructure package.

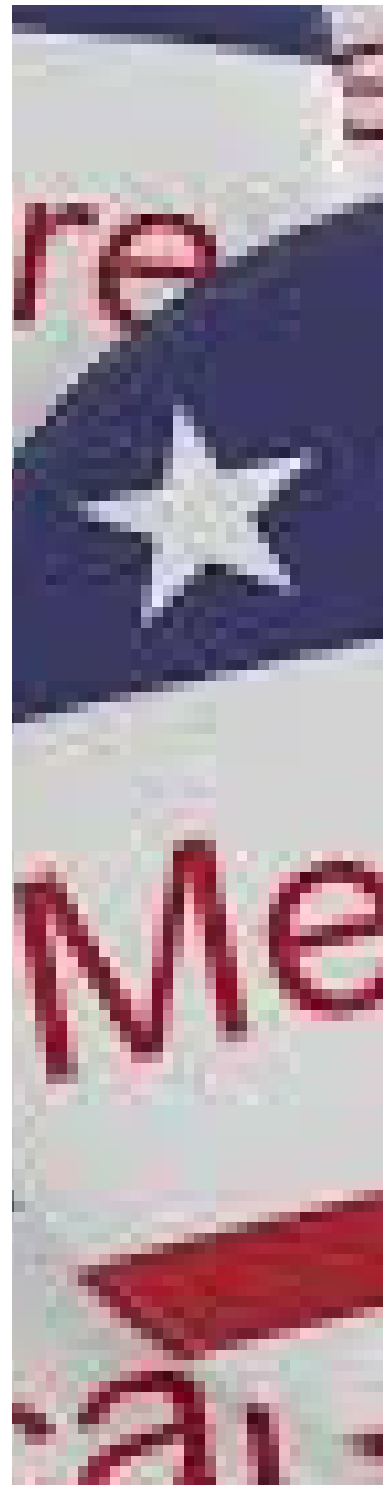
Another 50% are in favour of adding the plan to the \$3.5 trillion package that is being hammered out now in Congress.

The poll was of 1,999 registered voters and had a margin of error of two percentage points.

THE IMPACT

Democrats are hoping to use the drug pricing provision, which the Congressional Budget Office has estimated could save \$456 billion over the next decade, to help bring down the cost of the package.

source: <https://bit.ly/3BgIFuh>



NORTHERN IRELAND COULD FACE MEDICINE SHORTAGES AFTER BREXIT GRACE PERIOD ENDS NEXT YEAR

THE NEWS

Leading pharmaceutical research firm finds some drug firms will withdraw up to 90 per cent of their products from Northern Ireland as protocol hits exports.

The analysis focuses on the uncertain regulatory position of Northern Ireland, which is governed by the protocol that binds it to European Union single market practices and regulations, yet is still part of the UK.

THE IMPACT

Shortages of critical drugs to treat conditions ranging from high blood pressure to cancer would be an additional consequence for Northern Ireland, which has already suffered from food shortages and empty supermarket shelves since the UK left the EU at the beginning of last year.

source: <https://bit.ly/3mzNEPo>



GET IN TOUCH

"We always welcome your thoughts and opinions on the topics raised here.

If you'd like to share anything or hear how we can support you in getting your product to market email Paul and Graham, managing directors, today at:

contact@remapconsulting.com"



Paul Craddy
Managing Director & Founder



Graham Foxon
Managing Director & Founder

