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For Immediate Release



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Consumers for Affordable Health Care Applauds Progress in Landmark Prescription Drug Price Negotiations

Augusta, ME — The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) announced yesterday that [lower prices for ten high-cost drugs](#) under Medicare Part D have been negotiated. The new pricing will take effect on January 1, 2026, delivering substantial savings for Medicare beneficiaries and taxpayers across the United States. [CMS estimates](#) that had the new pricing been in effect last year, Medicare would have saved an estimated \$6 billion.

“This is a monumental first step in addressing high prescription drug costs” said Ann Woloson, Executive Director of Consumers for Affordable Health Care. Woloson added “Tens of thousands of Mainers will benefit from price negotiation under Medicare Part D. This marks a significant victory for patients and families nationwide, especially in states like Maine, where the burden of high drug costs has been deeply felt. Our hope is that additional savings and relief from high drug costs will be achieved for all, sooner than later.”

The ten drugs selected for the first cycle of Medicare price negotiations, some of which are among the costliest in Maine, include:

1. Januvia- A diabetes medication.
2. Fiasp; Fiasp FlexTouch; Fiasp PenFill; NovoLog; NovoLog FlexPen; NovoLog PenFill- Diabetes medications.
3. Farxiga- A treatment for diabetes, heart failure, chronic kidney disease.
4. Enbrel – A treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis.
5. Jardiance- A treatment for diabetes, heart failure, chronic kidney disease.
6. Stelara– A treatment for psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis.
7. Xarelto - Prevention and treatment of blood clots, reduction of risk for patients with coronary or peripheral artery disease.
8. Eliquis - Prevention and treatment of blood clots.
9. Entresto - A treatment for heart failure.
10. Imbruvica - A treatment for blood cancers.

According to the [Maine Health Data Organization \(MHDO\)](#), some of these drugs represent some of the costliest for residents of Maine, contributing to significant healthcare costs. MHDO's latest report, [Prescription Drug Costs and Utilization in Maine at Retail and Mail Order Pharmacies](#), identifies prescription drugs with the highest costs in Maine. The list includes drugs that treat chronic and severe conditions such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. The top 25 most frequently prescribed drugs include medications commonly prescribed to manage chronic conditions prevalent in the state.

These drugs accounted for a substantial portion of Maine's prescription drug spending, with some experiencing significant year-over-year cost increases. For example, Stelara and Eliquis appear on Maine's list of costliest drugs and are among those with the highest year-over-year price increases, making them prime candidates for price negotiation.

Medicare beneficiaries are expected to save \$1.5 billion in out-of-pocket costs in 2026 alone. The negotiated prices range from 38% to 79% off the list prices, providing significant relief to Mainers managing those chronic health conditions.

[MHDO's data](#) reveals the pressing need for drug price controls, particularly in Maine, where the health care system shoulders a heavy financial burden from high-cost medications. In the last fiscal year, the top 25 costliest drugs alone accounted for nearly \$933 million in spending within the state. CMS's successful negotiations represent a critical step toward easing this burden and making essential medications more affordable.

Please see CMS's [Negotiated Prices Fact Sheet](#) for more detailed information about actual negotiated drug prices for the drugs listed above.

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