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Here are some recent health care stories from AskaPatient's news feed:

- [Drug list prices in TV commercials requirement blocked](#)

We won't get to see the list prices of prescription drugs in television commercials this week, as a federal judge blocked the requirement for now. Meanwhile, drug makers seem to be including more mentions of "as low as" or "discounted" prices in their TV commercials.

- [High on iron? It stops anemia but has a downside](#)

A global study looking at the role that iron plays in 900 diseases has uncovered the impact of both low and high iron levels - and the news is mixed. Study is the first to use large scale population data to support the link between iron overload and bacterial skin infections (cellulitis).

- [Reckitt Benckiser to pay a whopping \\$1.4 billion to resolve U.S. claims related to opioid probe.](#)

The company's pharma business Indivior was accused of deceiving doctors and healthcare benefit programs into believing [Suboxone](#) Film, itself a form of opioid, was safer and less susceptible to abuse than similar drugs.

- [Air pollution speeds up aging of the lungs and increases chronic lung disease risk](#)

A European study of more than 300,000 people has found that exposure to outdoor air pollution is linked to decreased lung function and an increased risk of developing COPD. Lung function normally declines as we age, but the new research suggests that air pollution may contribute to the aging process.

- [Caregiver depression tied to more ER visits for dementia patients](#)

Dementia patients may go to the emergency room more often when their caregivers are depressed, a recent study suggests.

- [A proposal to shift dialysis care to patients' homes](#)

Only about 12% of dialysis patients get their treatment at home and new initiative aims to dramatically increase that number and move patients out of costly dialysis centers. It would also add provisions to boost the annual number of kidneys available for transplants.

- [U.S. federal judge orders FDA to implement 10-month deadline for e-cig applications](#)

A U.S. federal judge on Friday ordered the Food and Drug Administration to impose a 10-month deadline for the submission of e-cigarette applications, turning the screws on companies like **Juul Labs** whose products have come under intense scrutiny for their popularity among teenagers.

- [Starving children often don't recover, even when fed enough. Restoring their gut bacteria could help](#)

Two studies in *Science* this week suggest fostering the right gut microbes may help children recover. The results suggest a way to improve nutrition even in well-fed children, in whom a poor diet can lead to an increased risk of obesity, diabetes, and other diseases as adults.

- [Abandoned proposal would have required health insurers to pass billions of dollars in rebates they receive from drugmakers to Medicare patients](#)

The Trump administration scrapped one of its most ambitious proposals for lowering prescription medicine prices, backing down from a policy aimed at health insurers and raising the possibility of new measures focused on drugmakers.

- [The DEA's proposed crackdown on "fentanyl copycats" includes designating them Schedule I \(illegal\) drugs](#)

However, the proposal raises concerns from HHS about its affect on medical research, because access to the drug would become more difficult. Officials are divided over this part of a proposal to crack down on illicit versions of fentanyl, the deadly synthetic painkiller.

- [Newer shingles vaccine reduced outbreaks of the painful rash among patients who were transplanted with their own stem cells](#)

This is promising news for immune-compromised patients. Study was led by a Duke Health researcher and published in *JAMA* this month. Note: the study was funded by GSK, maker of [Shingrix vaccine](#).

- [The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued warning letters or alerts for at least eight repackers](#)

Repackers of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) were warned or cited for significant violations of good manufacturing processes and/or safety issues. They included manufacturers of active ingredients used in pharmaceuticals for opioids, baclofen, and porcine thyroid, among others.

- [Larger drug trials that intervene earlier needed for Alzheimer's disease](#)

There are currently no drugs that stop or inhibit Alzheimer's disease. Despite drug trials showing plaque reduction in the brain, the patients' cognitive function did not improve. Would the results be different if it were possible to design studies that intervene much earlier on in the

disease?

- [GSK's two-drug HIV Dovato treatment meets main goal in study](#)

GlaxoSmithKline Plc's two-drug HIV regimen Dovato was successful in suppressing the AIDS-causing virus in patients over 48 weeks at the same level of a previous three-drug treatment in a late-stage trial, the drugmaker said on Wednesday.

- [Roche, Merck, Novartis, and others raised prices on 83 medicines this month](#)

Despite consumers' and politicians' concerns about high drug prices, five large drug makers have raised prices on at least 83 medicines this month. July is a common month for pharmaceutical companies to raise prices.

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