

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

- [WHO reports alarming increase in resistance to common HIV treatments](#)

Surveys by the World Health Organization (WHO) reveal that, in the past four years, 12 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas have surpassed acceptable levels of cases of drug-resistant strains of HIV, with more than 10% of patients (12% of women and 8% of men) having strains resistant to efavirenz and nevirapine, "backbone" drugs for treating HIV.

- [Generics companies' role in the opioid epidemic](#)

The *Washington Post's* "Opioid Files" series explains how three large generics companies were responsible for the vast majority of the 76 billion opioid pills produced and shipped from 2012 through 2016.

- [Socially active 60-year-olds face lower dementia risk](#)

Being more socially active in your 50s and 60s predicts a lower risk of developing dementia later on, finds a new UCL-led study published in *PLOS Medicine*.

- [Blue-blooded crabs at heart of pharma dispute on drug testing](#)

If you've received a vaccination, hip replacement or chemotherapy without suffering toxic shock, chances are you've benefited from a vast bloodletting of horseshoe crabs.

- [Anesthesiologists need to know about marijuana use](#)

Colorado is on the front lines in dealing with how marijuana use affects surgery. Lessons learned on operating tables and in recovery rooms have prompted calls for more research on marijuana nationwide.

- [Impossible Foods receives FDA approval for 'bleeding' veggie burger](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a key ingredient in plant-based burger patties made by Impossible Foods, a rival to Beyond Meat, clearing the way for direct-to-consumer sales at U.S. grocery stores and restaurants.

- [Congress seeks briefing on potential threat to U.S. heparin supply](#)

Congressional leaders asked the Food and Drug Administration to report on any potential threat to the U.S. heparin supply due to the outbreak of African swine fever in China. Heparin, a blood thinner drug used in the United States for open heart surgeries and kidney dialysis, is made from pig intestines. About 60 percent of United States supply of crude heparin is sourced from China.

- [The talk doctors need to have with seniors before surgery](#)

Surgeons are rethinking the old notions of "informed consent." With older patients especially, a push is on to talk candidly about what a surgery will do, its risks and how it will affect their quality of life.

- [Genetic-testing scam targets seniors and rips off Medicare](#)

Capitalizing on the growing popularity of genetic testing — and fears of illness — scammers are persuading seniors to hand over cheek swabs with their DNA, not knowing it may lead to identity theft and Medicare fraud.

- [Trump administration moves to make health care costs more transparent](#)

The proposed rules would require hospitals to provide far more detail about the actual prices they charge insurers for patients' care.

- [Cheater, cheater: human behavior lab studies why people cheat](#)

A human behavior lab took a closer look at cheating during periods of relative economic abundance and scarcity to determine whether cheating for monetary gain is a product of a person's economic situation. They found that cheating is more linked to a person's character.

- [New Hampshire study shines light on strong link between childhood traumas, substance misuse later in life](#)

Research from a drug court program shows that 75% of the participants suffered adverse childhood experiences. A psychologist with Greater Nashua Mental Health noted while this finding is "kind of an obvious thing," she hopes drug courts around the country will respond by adjusting the services they offer.

- [Plan announced for American importation of lower-cost drugs from Canada](#)

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced a preliminary plan that will allow Americans to import certain lower-cost drugs from Canada. Insulin, biological drugs, controlled substances and intravenous drugs would not be included. The plan relies on states to come up with proposals for safe importation and submit them for federal approval. Under a second option, manufacturers could import versions of any FDA-approved drugs from foreign countries — including insulin — and sell them at a lower cost than the same U.S. versions. This appears to be a way drugmakers could avoid some of the contracts they have with drug middlemen, known as pharmacy benefit managers. Click here for the four-page "[Safe Importation Action Plan](#)" jointly released by FDA and HHS.

- [Canada concerned about U.S. proposal as it faces its own drug shortages](#)

Health Canada reports that there are more than 1,800 drug shortages in Canada. Pharmacists and other healthcare groups are concerned that shortages will worsen if U.S. begins large-scale importation of drugs from Canada. As it is, Canada imports most of its prescription drugs from other countries, setting price ceilings based on comparison prices in seven other countries. One Canadian policy analyst says the U.S. "should import some controls over the prices of prescription drugs."

Trouble viewing this email? View it as a [web page](#). Also view [newsletter archive](#).

Subscribe and visit us at <https://www.askapatient.com>

Check out more health news on our web site: [Pharm News](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) from the weekly newsletter.

Please contact us with suggestions, comments, or questions:

admin@askapatient.com

We welcome your feedback.

