

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

[FDA approves new add-on drug to treat "off" episodes in adults with Parkinson's](#)

Nourianz (istradefylline) tablets were approved as an add-on treatment to levodopa/carbidopa (such as [Sinemet](#)) in adult patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) experiencing "off" episodes.

[Bankruptcy plan has sales of OxyContin funding anti-addiction medication](#)

As part of its proposed bankruptcy plan, OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma will dissolve, with owners retaining the bulk of their fortune. It would reemerge as a beneficiary trust purposed with combatting the opioid epidemic. Ironically, continued sales of OxyContin would fund the development and production of a new anti-addiction medication.

[Study suggests newer type of drugs for type 2 diabetes are associated with reduced risk of heart failure](#)

Scandinavian study compared patients with type 2 diabetes using SGLT2 inhibitors (such as brand name drugs [Invokana](#), [Jardiance](#), and [Farxiga](#)) with those using DPP4 inhibitor (such as brand name [Januvia](#) or [Tradjenta](#) or [Onglyza](#)).

[Drug use, excess alcohol and no helmet common among severely injured e-Scooter users](#)

A study of admissions to three U.S. major trauma centers, published online in *Trauma Surgery & Acute Care Open* found that most of those injured on e-Scooters were men aged 20 – 40. The small study only included patients admitted to major trauma centers.

[The Apotheke: how are German pharmacies different than your drugstore?](#)

Germany's pharmacies provide insights into the country's low drug prices and strict regulations. Each is has uniform drug prices and is owned by a pharmacist. Also, the merchandise is limited to health and drug items; you won't find candy bars or other convenience store items.

[Study says there is no single "gay gene"](#)

The study, [published in Science](#), used data from the UK Biobank and 23andMe. Environmental factors are likely play a larger role than genetics, according to the author.

[Little-used drug combination may extend the lives of lung transplant patients](#)

Researchers analyzed US lung transplant data, focused on immunosuppression regimes, and found a drug combination that appears to significantly extend patient survival.

[CDC issued an advisory about severe pulmonary disease associated with e-cigarette products](#)

As of August 27, 215 possible cases have been reported from 25 states and additional reports of pulmonary illness are under investigation. The CDC recommends that anyone who uses e-cigarette products should not buy these products off the street and should not modify e-cigarette products.

[FDA recommends health care facilities begin using duodenoscopes with disposable components to reduce risk of patient infection](#)

Duodenoscopes are flexible, lighted tubes that are threaded through the mouth, throat and stomach into the top of the small intestine (duodenum). They are used in more than 500,000 procedures a year.

[Presidential candidate Sanders proposes plan to reduce consumer bankruptcies caused by medical debt](#)

Bernie Sanders proposed changes to bankruptcy law and also to cancel \$81 billion in existing past-due medical debt for Americans, but offered no details on how it would be financed.

[Update on safety issues with valsartan, losartan and other ARB medications](#)

The FDA says the risk to patients from taking recalled blood pressure medications is likely much lower than their estimates, which reflect a scientific assessment of the highest possible exposure. The FDA is using findings from its investigation of the nitrosamine impurity problem to inform its evaluation of medicines other than ARBs.

[FDA to step-up regulation of the growing number of "homeopathic" products according to level of risk](#)

Examples include infant and children's products containing ingredients associated with potentially significant safety concerns, such as belladonna and nux vomica, along with products marketed for serious conditions, such as cancer and heart disease.

[Medicare patients with multiple sclerosis bear the burden of rising drug prices](#)

Despite increased market competition for MS drugs, Medicare spending on medications like Copaxone, Tecfidera and Avonex increased by more than ten-fold between 2006 and 2016. Patients themselves saw more than a seven-fold increase in their share of the bill.

[From cradle to grave: Postnatal overnutrition linked to aging](#)

This study using mice suggests that overnutrition during infancy can lead to long-lasting health problems such as diabetes. Overnourished mice "infants" (up to 21 days old) gained DNA methylation tags, chemical modifications that alter gene expression, while mice that were not overnourished showed similar changes, but much later in life.

[\\$572 million judgment against Johnson & Johnson for its role in opioid crisis](#)

This is the first time an opioid manufacturer has been deemed responsible in court and made to pay damages. J&J is appealing the judgment, saying that the company "did not cause the opioid crisis in Oklahoma, and neither the facts nor the law support this outcome."

Coming soon: [Finding the Right Surgeon - Part 2](#)

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