

The 20 Most Expensive Prescription Drugs in the U.S.A.

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In an effort to continue to shed light on drug prices and increase transparency, GoodRx Research regularly tracks the most expensive drugs in the U.S. Since 2018, we have tracked the list price and dosing requirements to identify the most expensive drugs. This February things have changed, and not for the better.

While many of the same drugs remain on the list, there is one big takeaway this year: The most expensive keep getting more expensive. In January, 7 of the 20 drugs on the list, including Myalept, Ravicti, and Actimmune, increased in list price. Additionally, 2 newly approved drugs made their way onto the list with list prices above $30,000 a month.

The following are the 20 most expensive medications in the U.S., based on the list price — the price a manufacturer assigns as the official price of a drug. While few patients actually pay the list price because they are typically shielded by their health insurance, the price is still a good proxy for the price of a drug.

20 Most Expensive Drugs in the U.S.

February 2020

	Drug	Manufacturer	List price
1	**Myalept**	Amryt Pharma	$71,306
2	**Ravicti**	Horizon Therapeutics	$55,341
3	**Mavenclad**	EMD Serono, Inc.	$53,730
4	**Actimmune**	Horizon Therapeutics	$52,777
5	**Oxervate**	Dompé	$48,498
6	**Takhzyro**	Takeda	$45,464
7	**Daraprim**	Vyera Pharmaceuticals	$45,000
8	**Juxtapid**	Amryt Pharma	$44,714
9	**Cinryze**	Takeda	$44,141
10	**Chenodal**	Retrophin, Inc	$42,570
11	**Gattex**	Takeda	$40,450
12	**H.P. Acthar**	Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals	$39,864
13	**Tegsedi**	Akcea Therapeutics	$34,600
14	**Vitrakvi**	Bayer Pharmaceuticals	$32,800
15	**Ayvakit**	Blueprint Medicines	$32,000
16	**Kynamro**	Kastle Therapeutics	$30,444
17	**Sovaldi**	Gilead	$28,000
18	**Viekira Pak**	Abbvie	$27,773
19	**Viekira XR**	Abbvie	$27,773
20	**Tibsovo**	Agios Pharmaceuticals	$27,421

*Prices reflect list prices for each medication's most common 30-day prescription.

Source: GoodRx

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1. Myalept - $71,306

Myalept is an orphan drug — a drug that is intended to treat a rare disease. It is used to treat leptin deficiency in patients with generalized lipodystrophy, a condition of abnormal fat distribution in the body.

Patients self-administer Myalept once a day, and they typically use 14 vials per month at a list price of $5,093 per vial. Myalept is the only option to control this rare condition, and no other more affordable drugs are available.

This January, Myalept increased in price by 9.9%, bringing the price up from $64,859 to $71,306.

Aegerion Pharmaceuticals offers a copay card to help commercially insured patients afford Myalept.

2. Ravicti - $55,341

Ravicti is one of 2 drugs on this list manufactured by Horizon Pharma. It is used to treat urea cycle disorders, which are genetic conditions that result in high levels of ammonia in the blood. If left untreated, urea cycle disorders can lead to confusion, coma, or even death. Ravicti can be used in children as young as 2 months of age, and the typical patient uses 11 bottles in one month.

The list price for 1 bottle of Ravicti is $5,031, up 4% from last year.

For those looking to save, uninsured or low-income patients can get Ravicti for free through the Horizon Cares Patient Assistance Program.

3. Mavenclad - $53,730

Mavenclad is one of the newer drugs on the list. Approved in March 2019, it is used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis. Patients take 2 treatment courses of Mavenclad, 12 months apart. But the courses are expensive, with a list price of $53,730.

Manufacturer EMD Serono offers a copay card that can reduce out-of-pocket costs to as little as $0 per prescription. However, the program is only for commercially insured patients.

4. Actimmune - $52,777

Actimmune is the second drug on this list manufactured by Horizon Pharma and is approved for osteopetrosis and chronic granulomatous disease, a rare disorder that causes the immune system to malfunction. Patients typically take Actimmune 3 times a week. On average, they go through about 11 single-use vials a month.

The list price for Actimmune increased by 4.8% in January, and Actimmune now costs $4,797.92 per vial. Luckily, manufacturer Horizon Pharma offers a patient assistance program to help uninsured or low-income patients get Actimmune at no cost.

5. Oxervate - $48,498

Approved in 2019, Oxervate is the first drug available to treat neurotrophic keratitis, a degenerative condition that causes reduced sensation in the cornea. This January, the list price for Oxervate increased by 2.7%, to $1,732.07 per vial for the drug.

6. Takhzyro - $45,464

Takhzyro is manufactured by Shire and is used to treat hereditary angioedema, a condition characterized by severe swelling in the body. Approved in late 2018, patients typically need 2 vials per of Takhzyro a month at $22,732 per vial.

7. Daraprim - $45,000

You might recall that in 2015, Martin Shkreli sparked outrage for hiking the price of Daraprim from $13.50 per pill to about $750 per pill in a matter of days. While this caused a national conversation about drug prices and a class-action lawsuit, the price for Daraprim still remains high. The list price for a 1-month supply (60 tablets) comes out to $45,000.

Daraprim is commonly given to patients with AIDS or those who have received transplants to prevent infection. It is also used to treat toxoplasmosis in otherwise healthy people. Unlike other drugs on this list, patients are rarely on Daraprim for more than a couple of months.

8. Juxtapid - $44,714

Juxtapid is manufactured by Aegerion Pharmaceuticals to treat people with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, a gene mutation that leads to cardiovascular disease. Patients typically take 28 capsules of Juxtapid per month, and each capsule has a list price of $1,596.91. Like many drugs on this list, Juxtapid also saw a list price increase in January, of 9.9%.

9. Cinryze - $44,141

Manufactured by Shire, Cinryze has a list price of $44,141 for a typical 1-month supply (16 vials). Cinryze is used to treat hereditary angioedema, a rare, life-threatening genetic condition that causes swelling in various parts of the body including the hands, face, and throat.

Fortunately, commercially insured patients can get Cinryze for as little as $0 with the Shire OnePath Co-Pay Assistance Program.

10. Chenodal - $42,570

Chenodal, used to dissolve gallstones, is manufactured by Retrophin, which was founded by Martin Shkreli, the same person responsible for Daraprim's price hike. Back in 2014, while Shkreli was still CEO of Retrophin, prices for Chenodal increased fivefold.

What's more, Chenodal is currently off patent, which usually means manufacturers can start making affordable generics of the brand-name drug. However, Chenodal is protected under what is referred to as a "closed distribution system," which prevents manufacturers from developing their own generic versions.

While many patients take 90 tablets per month, some can take as many as 210 at a whopping list price of $473 per tablet.

11. Gattex - $40,450

Used to treat short bowel syndrome, a condition that causes diarrhea resulting in malnutrition and dehydration, Gattex costs over $40,000 per month. In May 2019, Gattex won FDA approval to treat short bowel syndrome in children 1 year of age and older.

Patients typically go through 30 vials of Gattex per month, with a list price of $1,348 per vial. Manufacturer Takeda offers the OnePath program that can help patients with the insurance process, financial assistance options, and prescription delivery.

12. H.P. Acthar - $39,864

H.P. Acthar, also referred to as Acthar, is used to treat multiple conditions including lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, infantile spasms, eye disorders, and psoriatic arthritis. Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals manufacturers Acthar, and the FDA approved it back in 2010.

Just like many drugs on this list, Acthar has also seen its fair share of price hikes. Back in 2001, when Sanofi still manufactured the drug, the list price for 1 vial ran at about $40. Seventeen years and one new manufacturer later, the list price for 1 vial of Acthar (a typical monthly supply) now runs at $39,864.

13. Tegsedi - $34,600

Tegsedi is used to treat nerve damage caused by hereditary transthyretin amyloidosis, a rare and slow-progressing disease caused by a buildup of proteins in organs and tissue. After patients are trained on how to administer Tegsedi, they typically use 4 vials per month. Each vial has a list price of $8,650.

14. Vitrakvi - $32,800

Vitrakvi is a cancer drug used to treat patients with a specific gene mutation. Patients typically take 60 capsules a month; each capsule has a list price of $547.

Patients with commercial insurance can get Vitrakvi for as little as $0 with the TRAK Assist $0 Co-Pay Program.

15. Ayvakit - $32,000

Approved in January 2020, Ayvakit is the newest drug on this list. Used to treat gastrointestinal stromal tumor, a tumor in the gastrointestinal tract, Avyakit has a list price of $32,000 for a 30-day supply.

Patients typically take 30 tablets per month with a list price of $1,067 per tablet. Manufacturer Blueprint Medicines offers a manufacturer copay program that can reduce copays to as little as $0. Unfortunately, the card is for commercially insured patients only.

16. Kynamro - $30,444

Kynamro was approved in 2017. It is used to treat homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia, an autosomal disorder that can lead to premature heart disease, heart attacks, and strokes. Patients administer Kynamro by subcutaneous injection, and they typically go through 4 syringes per month with a list price of $7,611 per syringe.

17. Sovaldi - $28,000

Manufactured by Gilead, Sovaldi is a popular medication used to treat hepatitis C. Treatments for hepatitis C are notoriously expensive, and the cost for Sovaldi is no different. Patients take Sovaldi for 12 weeks; the list price for a 1-month supply runs at $28,000, or $1,000 per tablet.

18. Viekira Pak - $27,773

Viekira Pak is 1 of 3 drugs on this list used to treat hepatitis C. Approved in 2015, Viekira Pak is used to treat hepatitis C genotype 1, the most common hepatitis C genotype (strain) in the U.S. Viekira Pak is a package of 2 different kinds of tablets. Each day, patients are instructed to take 2 of the tablets containing ombitasvir, paritaprevir, and ritonavir and 1 of the tablets containing dasabuvir.

However, Viekira is no longer a first-line treatment for hepatitis C. Since its approval, multiple hepatitis drugs have been released that treat all hepatitis C genotypes and don't require as many pills per day.

19. Viekira XR - $27,773

Viekira XR is the extended-release version of Viekira Pak, and it is also used to treat patients with hepatitis C genotype 1. Just like Viekira Pak, Viekira XR contains the active ingredients dasabuvir, ombitasvir, paritaprevir, and ritonavir. But patients only need to take 1 single tablet per day.

20. Tibsovo - $27,421

Approved in July 2018, Tibsovo is the first treatment for acute myeloid leukemia in patients with a specific genetic mutation. While it is an orphan drug that fills an unmet need, Tibsovo has a list price of $27,421 for a 1-month supply, making it unaffordable for most.

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Methodology

We created a list of the most expensive drugs by list price, excluded drugs that are administered under the supervision of a healthcare provider, and obtained typical fill quantities using our data and information from the drug manufacturer websites to compare the monthly price of these drugs. Using the official manufacturer list price, we calculated the total cost of a 1-month supply of a typical fill quantity. For drugs where there is a large effective dosing range, or where patient weight determines dosing, we selected a dosing quantity based on claim volume.

Prices in this analysis are the list price, which is the price the pharmaceutical company assigns as an official price for a drug. While few people actually pay the full price of a drug out of pocket, as they are typically shielded by their health insurance, more and more people are on the hook for the price of their drugs every year due to high-deductible insurance plans and formulary changes. What's more, high-priced drugs end up raising insurance rates and overall healthcare spending, which trickles down to patients in the end.

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See previous GoodRx reports on the 20 most expensive drugs in the U.S. below:

- *October 2019*
- *July 2019*
- *March 2019*