

Schizophrenia Medicines in Jeopardy



Schizophrenia[®]
& Psychosis
Action Alliance

The Inflation Reduction Act hits this vulnerable patient community especially hard

Schizophrenia is a serious brain disease that affects more than 2.5 million people in the United States. But many must rely on decades-old medicines that can leave some symptoms unaddressed and may cause debilitating side effects.



People with the disease often must try several medicines before finding one that works for them—and many never find one. New treatments are urgently needed.



About **1 in 20** people with schizophrenia

receive the evidence-based treatment practices that lead to optimal outcomes—and nearly half receive no treatment at all.

Inadequate treatment of schizophrenia contributes to severe consequences, including neurological damage, worsening symptoms and an average lifespan that is



15 years shorter than the general population.

After many decades of research and development (R&D) challenges, a potential turning point has emerged, with a first-in-class treatment approved for the first time in 30 years and a promising pipeline.



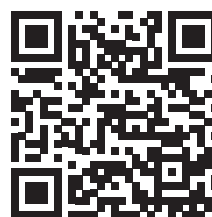
Nearly 35 medicines are in development for schizophrenia, including next-generation treatments that target different proteins in the brain to treat symptoms while minimizing side effects.

But just as the promise of new treatments is becoming a reality, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program, discouraging the R&D needed to advance new schizophrenia treatments to fill the massive treatment gaps faced by this vulnerable patient population.



Under the program, the government can set the prices of eligible medicines in Medicare far earlier than they would otherwise face generic competition. This shortened timeframe to earn revenues on medicines is expected to dramatically shift R&D incentives. Small molecule medicines, which are crucial to the treatment of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, are particularly impacted by the law, as they can be selected for price setting 4 years earlier than other medicines.

The schizophrenia community has been marginalized for decades; they stand to suffer even more as the IRA's price-setting provisions cloud the promise of new treatments.



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