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by W W

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Article 1: ICER Rubber-Stamps Vertex's \$311K CF Drug Trikafta but Blasts 'Monopoly'

Pricing

Cost watchdogs in the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) cannot dispute the therapeutic value of Vertex Pharmaceuticals' triplet drug Trikafta. The drug used for cystic fibrosis (CF). The only issue being pricing, ICER releasing its final report awarded Trikafta the highest rating (Weintraub, 2020). Mainly, the institute did so due to the strength of evidence of the drug improving patients' outcomes. Apart from that, it also issued an "Access and Affordability" alert. However, the only disadvantage is that manufacturer takes advantage of its monopoly setting a price costing average patient millions of dollars over their entire lifetime.

The institute studied four patients who were suffering from cystic fibrosis and had a variation of the delF508 CFTR gene mutation that the drug targets when administered. Being that it had health benefits to three of the patients and may be better to the fourth one compared to older cystic fibrosis by Vertex Symdeko, it seemed to be a better option. Kalydeco, another Vertex cystic fibrosis drug was responsible for increasing the eligible CF patients to 90% from 50% which was the company's initial number of patients according to the company's older drugs (Weintraub, 2020). Notably, Trikafta seems to be the drug that will give Vertex CF a breakthrough come the near future.

To avoid greater losses of health in CF patients, Vertex needs to lower its prices, according to ICER. Arguably, bringing the cost of Trikafta in line with its health benefits, lowering the price is a smart move. If the high price is maintained, there would be greater loss due to rising overall costs of health insurance and health care. The COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed ICER draft of CF

review made to shed light on the Trikafta price. After the pandemic, a letter was also drafted to the CF patients concerning the ownership of the company would eventually harm the patients in the long run.

Article 2: ¹ Home Care Nurses Account for Most Malpractice Claims Over Five-Year Period

Just like any other profession, nurses also are faced with daily challenges one of them being malpractice claims. This happens to almost all the nurses but more so home care nurses.

According to a news report, home care nurses are more vulnerable to such claims compared to other nursing specialties. From 2015 to 2019, home care nurses were listed more vulnerable when it comes to liability claims. Additionally, Nurses Service Organization, a professional liability insurance provider, released findings that show the first-time home nurses were much more involved in malpractice suits since the start of the report back in 2008.

Taking a look at the numbers, according to a previous 2015 report, it clearly shows that home care nurses' malpractice claims are on the rise. According to past reports, the specialty that accounted for more closed professional liability was adult medical/surgical nursing. Therefore, the shift has a representation of the growth in popularity of home care services. Regardless of all this, it is also reasoning unique to the setting that results in the high number of lawsuits. Notably, Zhao et al. (2011) posit that nurses working in-home care have no institutional support that their peers would get. Therefore, it is up to nurses to identify and determine a patient is at risk and has to be escalated to the next level of care.

Based on the costs incurred for a home care nurse as a result of closed claims, home care nurses should take necessary measures to avoid being part of the malpractice claims (Zhao & Rob Haley, 2011). This includes staying up to date on education and training, document every

assessment, use the chain of command when one is concerned about a patient, and maintain critical files that may demonstrate patients' character. When this is followed to the letter it is difficult to be associated with malpractice

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