

# Drug Pricing Fact Sheet

## HUMIRA

Humira is produced by drugmaker AbbVie and is used to treat primarily rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis. In 2016, 4.4 million prescriptions for Humira were dispensed in the U.S.

### Patent Abuse

Humira is the world's best-selling prescription drug, with over \$16 billion in U.S. sales per year. Humira was approved in 2002 and, according to AbbVie's CEO, the drug company has created a "patent estate" around the drug.

Its initial patent would have expired in 2016, but within the three years before that, the company applied for and obtained over 75 patents that would extend its monopoly to 2034 – and keep this enormously expensive treatment inaccessible to many patients.

### Price Gouging

Total spending by Medicare and Medicaid increased 266% on Humira between 2012 and 2016, and the average spending on Humira per person more than doubled from \$16,000 to \$33,000. This puts Humira in the 'top 5' for highest sustained price increases during that time period for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Humira also makes more money annually than all of the NFL teams combined.

### Competition

At least one of the patents on Humira has already been thrown out but, in order to break AbbVie's perpetual monopoly, companies must engage in time-intensive, expensive patent litigation, thus allowing the drug company to continue to profit as a result of its anticompetitive, government-granted monopoly.



## Humira By The Numbers



AbbVie has filed 247 patent applications on Humira to date, with over three times as many patent applications in the U.S. than at the European Patent Office.



The average price increases each year are over six times greater than the rate of inflation.



Humira makes pharmaceutical company AbbVie \$18.4 billion per year or \$583 per second.



89% of the patents on Humira were filed after the drug was on the market.

**"Humira's Best-Selling Drug Format. Start at a High Price. Go Higher."**

– New York Times, January 6, 2018

**"By Adding Patents, Drugmaker Keeps Cheaper Humira Copies Out of U.S."**

– Wall Street Journal, October 16, 2018