



At \$3.5-Trillion Per Year: America's Health-Care System Is One of the World's Largest Financial Enterprises

The US health-care system costs \$3.5-trillion annually. Of this, at least \$300-billion is spent on marketing its services and products. To influence doctors to prescribe more drugs, tests, and out-sourced procedures, drug companies shower them with fine food, drinks, speaking fees, and travel expenses to attend conferences. Ironically, prescription drugs are the fourth leading cause of death in America. Medical debt is the number one reason that Americans declare bankruptcy. The median charge for a visit to the emergency room nationally is over \$1,000 per visit, and a single aspirin tablet might be billed at \$30. [Does anyone else notice the smell of corruption in this? Isn't it obvious that the system must eventually self destruct and pull down the nation with it? Does anyone even care?] -GEG

If the U.S. health care system was a country, it would have the fifth largest GDP on the entire planet. At this point, only the United States, China, Japan and Germany have a GDP that is larger than the 3.5 trillion dollar U.S. health care market. If that sounds obscene to you, that is because it is obscene. We should want people to be attracted to the health care industry because they truly want to help people that are suffering, but instead, the primary reason why people are

drawn to the health care industry these days is because of the giant mountains of money that are being made. Like so many other things in our society, the health care industry is all about the pursuit of the almighty dollar, and that is just wrong.

In order to keep this giant money machine rolling, the health care industry has to do an enormous amount of marketing. If you can believe it, a study that was just published found that [at least 30 billion dollars a year](#) is spent on such marketing.

Hoping to earn its share of the [\\$3.5 trillion](#) health care market, the medical industry is pouring more money than ever into advertising its products – from high-priced prescriptions to do-it-yourself genetic tests and unapproved stem cell treatments.

Spending on health care marketing nearly doubled from 1997 to 2016, soaring to at least \$30 billion a year, according to a study published Tuesday in JAMA.

This marketing takes many different forms, but perhaps the most obnoxious are the television ads that are endlessly hawking various pharmaceutical drugs. If you watch much television, you certainly can't miss them. They always show vibrant, smiling, healthy people participating in various outdoor activities on bright, sunny days, and the inference is that if you want to be like those people you should take their drugs. And the phrase ["ask your doctor"](#) is usually near the end of every ad...

The biggest increase in medical marketing over the past 20 years was in "direct-to-consumer" advertising, including the TV commercials that exhort viewers to "ask your doctor" about a particular drug. Spending on such ads jumped from \$2.1 billion in 1997 to nearly \$10 billion in 2016, according to the study.

As a result of all those ads, millions of Americans rush out to their doctors to ask about drugs that they do not need for diseases that they do not have.

And on January 1st, [dozens of pharmaceutical manufacturers](#) hit Americans with another annual round of massive price increases.

But everyone will just keep taking those drugs because that is what the doctors are telling them to do. But what most people never find out is that the pharmaceutical industry goes to great lengths to get those doctors to do what they want. According [to NBC News](#), the big drug companies are constantly “showering them with free food, drinks and speaking fees, as well as paying for them to travel to conferences”.

It is a legal form of bribery, and it works.

When you go to most doctors, they will only have two solutions to whatever problem you have – drugs or surgery.

And since nobody really likes to get cut open, and since drugs are usually the far less expensive choice, they are usually the preferred option.

Of course, if doctors get off the path and start trying to get cute by proposing alternative solutions, they can get in big trouble [really fast](#)...

Today's medical doctors are not allowed to give nutritional advice, or the [American Medical Association](#) will come shut them down, and even if they were, they don't know the right things to say, because they weren't educated that way in medical college. So instead, M.D.s just sling experimental, addictive drugs at symptoms of deeper rooted sicknesses, along with immune-system-destroying antibiotics and carcinogenic vaccines.

That's why any medicine that wrecks your health is easy to

come by, just like junk food in vending machines. The money isn't made off the "vending" products, the money is made off the sick fools who are repeat offenders and keep going back to the well for more poison – it's called chronic sick care or symptom management. Fact: Prescription drugs are the [fourth leading cause of death](#) in America, even when "taken as directed."

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