According to Prime Therapeutics, in the first half of 2017, drug costs:

- Decreased for Medicare Part D plans by **0.1%**
- Decreased for Medicaid plans by **1.8%**
- Increased for commercial plans by only **0.8%**

Negotiated rebates and discounts from drug manufacturers contributed to this lower trend in drug spending. Unfortunately, those negotiated savings realized by Prime and its health insurer clients are not often shared with patients to lower out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter.

**In 2016, Drug Spending Kept in Line with Overall Health Care Expenditures**

Following cyclical growth due to the introduction of cures for Hepatitis C and the coverage expansion of the Affordable Care Act, prescription drug spending is growing in line with overall health care expenditures. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) projects this trend to continue until 2025. Prescription drug spending growth slowed from 9% in 2015 to 5% in 2016, and leading Pharmacy Benefit Managers report prescription drug spending increases of less than 4% for commercial payers in 2016.