Recent data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) shows that prescription drug spending growth is slowing—from 9% growth in 2015 to 5% in 2016.

CMS also projects that prescription drug spending will grow in line with overall health care spending through at least 2024.

A recent report from the QuintilesIMS Institute shows that competition in the market and expiring patents will produce substantial savings on prescription drugs in coming years. New competition from generic and biosimilar drugs over the next five years will reduce prescription drug spending by $143.5 billion, a 58% savings increase over the $91 billion in savings from 2012–2016.

Savings on overall prescription drug spending (in $ billions) per year due to patent expirations and biosimilar competition
Source: QuintilesIMS Institute, "Outlook for Global Medicines through 2021*