

DBSA Medications & Perceptions Survey: Winter 2010

Question 24: Comments about Pharmaceutical Companies - General

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24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:
A doctor admitted to me 11 years ago he prescribed a particular medication because that name was on a coffee mug on the desk where he was sitting.
A high percentage of drugs are actually manufactured in China for our drug companies. I question this practice as China does not have a good track record for quality control as well as knowingly shipping products they know are defective.
Abilify manufacturers are lying pill pushers. The price of these medications is out of site.
Actually, I feel they are after money only. They don't care about the patients regardless of what their commercials say. If you can afford the meds fine but if you can't you can die as far as they are concerned.
Advertising on tv makes it seem like the companies are just pushing pills and trying to get more and more people on drugs.
After watching some programmes on T>V. such as Dispatches or Panorama which have exposed the side effects of medication and experiencing side effects myself from them which caused me to be hospitalised I have no trust in pharmaceutical companies and most doctors who prescribe depressive and anti-psychotic drugs. I was given Lithium which caused my thyroid to become under active I now have to take thyroxine. I was then treated with Tegritol with horrendous side effect and Olanzapine which caused me to clench my jaw and also my blood pressure became unstable and my legs swelled up. I was threatened with being hospitalised if I refused to take Olanzapine which turned out to be a lie. I was given Olanzapine last year after being told it was a new drug but found out to my horror the side effects were the same as Haloperidol which I was given in 1974 and the jaw clenching side effects which I suffered terribly. I went to my Doctor with my husband, The doctor who told me I was doing it myself, so my husband dragged me around a supermarket with my jaw clenching uncontrollably it was horrendous I thought my jaw was going to break with the force of it, and I was very after working for 5 years in a PCP office, I saw the direct effect the pharmaceutical companies have on the doctor. Trips, money, etc were offered and accepted in return for prescribing a certain med regardless of the fact that another med might do exactly the same
All medications have benefits and risks which must be balanced in deciding on a medication. The risk of large liability from lawsuits is a major reason for the high prices of medications. FDA approval should shield pharmaceutical companies from damage liability suits.
Although drug reps provide samples that help a lot of people, I do not like that they intrude on doctors' and patients' time. I also don't trust that they recommend one treatment over another. Everyone is different, and responds to medicine in their own way. The doctor and patient together ought to decide the course of action.
Although they provide a tool to battle the disease their primary purpose is financial and not humanitarian so I don't trust them. I think a more honest appraisal of the benefits of a medication comes from the medical community that sees the result of the particular med and from my peers. It took pressure from doctors to get the drug companies to publicly admit their medications cause or contribute to diabetes and other serious impacts of damage or impacts to the heart! Look at all the lawsuits that the drug companies lost! Proof of the pudding
Authorities penalties are quite soft for pharmaceutical companies wrong doing
Basically more concerned about their bottom line.
Believe they are out to make money and make medications that one has to be weary of. Do the research, talk with your professional and make sure you know the "good and bad" of taking a particular med. Pharm companies have a certain percentage of contra-indicated in their initial testing which they don't take into consideration. Only the money in which they'll make for X number of people out there, hoping and thinking most potential users will not have the time or knowledge to research what may go wrong. Lives could be hindered due to their wanting to make money and settlements are easier to squelch. Should have layperson committees who also review what they are going to put on the market.
Big Pharma are business entities designed to make a profit. Their long-term survival depends on honesty and integrity, but short-term they are quite similar to person's with antisocial personality disorder - they care about nothing and no one other than their selves and their stock holders. They worship money.
Big Pharma=Big Money=Big Influence
Buyer Beware
By creating a feeling or emotional state of insufficiency, the televised and media online indoctrinate the masses, making the family doctor the bridge to enter into the popping of the pills. Do they help. Yes. But at what cost. Is it only in the mind; the weakness or lack of discipline that wants an excuse, an out - an accepted prognosis to save ones hiney at job, personal relationships, etc.
By issuing free samples they influence not only the physician but also the patient
Companies are not regulated well enough and need to provide low cost options for those that really need it without having to meet impossible standards
Consumer-directed advertising might cause patients to request and get a particular drug that's not appropriate for them. Divert that advertising cost into a reduction in drug prices.
Costs are way too high. Patients of mental illness should not have to be paying so much for tier 2 and tier 3 pills that are "new". The patents should expire in a shorter time frame to allow generics to come on the market. And keeping drugs like Adderall XR costing \$300+ does not help patients. It should be up to the Dr. prescribing to determine whether the patient truly needs the drug or is looking to sell them. For a patient who really needs it, the cost is a huge obstacle. Programs with RX cost assistance like Pristiq is doing should occur with all new Tier 3 drugs released.
Control what meds are available and cost. Detrimental to treatment.
Drug companies' primary concern is increasing profits -- not the health of patients.
Drug Companies are being allowed to sell drugs such as Abilify that have been known to cause severe / permanent side effects. I took Abilify for just 10 days and I was a total wreck. I could not stop moving or sit down for more than a few minutes. Even worse, my head began to spin to the point I could not even read a newspaper. I was hospitalized for this and did not fully recover until 3 months later. At which point I went into a very deep depression, thinking about anyway to end it. Now the Drug Company is advertising it as a free trial, without having to fully explained the risks.
Drug representatives appearing in doctors' offices are always very attractive and I've seen flirting going on between the psychiatrist and reps. on more than one occasion. For this reason I have mistrust.
Pharmaceutical companies are more interested in making money than finding drugs with more effectiveness and fewer really bad side effects.
Every business has a bottom line. It dictates every decision. Create a need and fill it. Its primary responsibility is to its share holders and profit. That's why I call it the "health scare industry".

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

every penny that has ever given me anything (almost) has come from pharma- my dad has worked for them for almost my entire life (not anymore). i can't be a hypocrit. pharma \$ put my sisters & me through college, paid for my meds when i had no insurance, paid my rent when i couldnt, etc. even my father believes (as i do) that drug companies and hospitals and "the system" is getting out of control w/ greed and \$ influencing decisions.

For drug companies, there is no reason to come up with one single medication that could come close to healing someone or treating a person so that they become well in a short period of time, because they would not make the disgusting amount of money that they do off the backs of desperate, ill, and the poor.

For the most part I think the companies are trying to make less expensive options of the drugs, but they also downplay some of the side effects.

Half the stuff out there is legal crystal meth.

Having worked for one of the larger and more prestigious drug companies as a nurse consultant/salesperson in the past I am very aware that sales are the focus. The company 'encouraged' me to sell a product for what I felt were inappropriate applications. (wound care products) I eventually left the sales arena because I would not compromise my nursing principles to make the sale.

I absolutely cannot believe the commercials I see for medications to help those with "depression." It is astounding to me 1. that they usually only say to consult your primary care doctor for the medication and 2.the list of side effects they spout off are along the lines of heart attack and stroke and 3. it is misleading to insinuate that a pill will make your life better again.

I also believe that pharmaceutical companies do not do enough long-term research and also are not honest in the reporting of their studies.(e.g. causing diabetes and other negative side effects. I think they are pill pushers especially with children with mental health issues and for off label uses of their medication. I believe that they should not be "in bed" with psychiatrists and other doctors

I always use the "Buyer be aware" approach when it comes to pharmaceutical companies.

I am a little cautious because these companies generally do not disclose the full results from research - and although they may act in the best interest of the patient - all i can see is the bottom dollar margin!

I am a little disturbed when I read about companies using drugs for things besides what they were intended and then pushing them on people.

i am cautious about anyone or thing that has to do with my psychiatric well-being especially those entities that may have some direct or indirect benefit from my choices and/or their own choices.

I am cautious about trusting the Pharm company only because I know they are a profit making business. I believe they work hard to find new meds to help folks with their illnesses even if money is the first motivator and helping others second.

I am cautious and blessed....they are providing my meds to me at no cost.

I am cautious because I keep getting scripts that have side effects that conflict with other medications I have for other conditions. ie..my bipolar/depression/anxiety scripts all have a side effect of causing high blood sugar and I have diabetes!!

I am concerned about the motivations of the pharmaceutical companies. Many historical "remedies" were ineffective and harmful. Is the medication I'm taking doing more harm than good? Is it necessary? Am I medicating feelings that are a natural part of being human?

I am currently helped dramatically by my medications, but I have also been far more disabled by the wrong medications than by the disease itself. I didn't take my medications as prescribed once to clear everything out of my system so i could start fresh with a new medication plan. That was 12 years ago and I've been med compliant (and an active participant in my medication choices) ever since. I also had to change my psychiatrist once when a poor med choice endangered my life (my next psychiatrist agreed with my assessment), The first psychiatrist insisted on a dangerous treatment.

I am glad for the money they spend developing medications for people who need them. I understand how the high cost of a new medication comes about; the cost of research, development, and FRD approval is monumental. However, I wish there was a way for the medication to become generic sooner, so that it would be more affordable.

I am only a patient and don't understand anything other than the fact that I have been on prescription medications for 3 years for bipolar/schizoaffective and it has taken my ability to think or focus away. Like many patients, I believe, I am trying to deal with surviving the basics...getting out of bed showering etc. I have never found a combination of meds that allows me to function like a normal human being...so I have no opinion on pharmaceutical companies except I wish they would create something that helped me and then convinced my psychiatrist to prescribe it.

I am particularly concerned about 1) the tendency to try to use drugs for more and more off-label uses without adequate testing and 2) the tendency to use powerful psychiatric medications with children when they have not been approved for that.

I am thankful for what they produce, but realized they are businesses first, and look for a profit.

I am uncomfortable with the way the pharmaceutical companies give samples to psychiatrists. I do prefer to try a sample, as apposed to buying a full prescription when I am trying a new medication. However, I think this (giving of the samples) may influence the physicians/psychiatrists determination in choosing which medication to prescribe instead of which medication may be most beneficial to the patient.

I am very angry at the pharmaceutical companies. They spend millions of dollars on advertising, but are not concerned about cost to the consumer. Don't they understand that people like me are poor. I cannot afford my psychiatric disability. I am a gold mine for the pharmaceutical companies, but a pariah for the health insurance companies!

I am very grateful for the financial assistance that they provide to many mental health organizations.

I appreciate business imperatives, drug development costs and shareholder concerns. I DO object to unethical practices and maximizing profits at the expense of the target population.

I beg them to please produce psychiatric meds that don't make me become fat.

I being a pharmacist and very familiar with the medications have many mixed emotions about them at times. I know they are necessary for many people and greatly improve their quality of life. I know from dealing with drug representatives that they give a skewed picture of the drug they are representing at times down right deceitful. I find it disturbing that when they are strongly detailing a area doctors are very receptive to them and we see dramatic increases in their drug rx's. It at times just seems as though the latest and newest drug without and consideration as to cost and if they are any real improvements in them. I feel that many doctors just go by what drug reps say without any comparison on their own.

I believe dollar signs are their number one priority, then maybe helping people.

I believe it's big business and therefore it's main purpose is to make money so there must be accountability outside of the industry.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

I believe many of these companies are out to make millions of dollars at the expense of people who need them but have trouble affording them. The medications I take are very affordable as I have healthcare insurance and a wonderful psychiatrist who understands cost issues and gives me samples to try first if the medicine is new and there is no generic for it.

I believe pharmaceutical companies sometimes push new drugs when an older less expensive drug is as effective or more effective.

I believe pharmaceuticals should NOT be advertising on TV to patients.

I believe that companies are going to do what is in their best interest and not in there addicts...That is what I think of large corporations.I believe in some cases they have the money and knowledge to cure what pains someone,but not the drive to do so.Maybe not in mental health yet but,I fear a group that is so large on the wrong track.

I believe that most of the large pharma companies are most interested in their profitably, since publicly traded corporations must, hold the fiduciary interests of the shareholders over all competing interests, as mandated by law. I believe that pushes the interests of the consumer down the priority list. I don't think they are bad, I just think they are out to make money.

I believe that new meds are often not put through large enough trials or long enough trial periods, as most of the side effects I typically end up with are statistically rare and very often only identified in the most extensive lists of data on the products. Also, I feel that they are often pushed to replace older similar meds simply because they are newer, and thereby more expensive, even if changes would not otherwise be warranted or necessary.

I believe that pharmaceutical companies are interested in one thing- making money. They have no interest in what actually helps patients.

I believe that pharmaceutical companies are more concerned about selling their products and on marketing their products than they are in researching their products. They spend millions more in marketing than they do research. I think that says a lot.

I believe that pharmaceutical companies generate far too much profit and should not be allowed to give out free samples like candy. Once my appointment was delayed when a drug representative was allowed to see the doctor ahead of me, despite the fact that he didn't even have an appointment.

I believe that pharmaceutical companies produce helpful treatments but that greed gets in the way of making those treatments available at reasonable costs for those who need them most.

I believe that the drug companies are out for the money. The only thing that keeps them at bay is the FDA. I was on a review board and saw how they are scrutinizd before they are released, and given their r&d costs, even if they don't get one drug through, they make it up on the next drug. Fortunately, my psychiatrist is a phamacologist also so he doesn't buy into the prescription for a few note pads and a pencil the the reps bring by.

I believe that they could help those who are in desperate need of medication& want it, but cannot afford it. Their desire to make a profit outweighs their desire to do really help people. A good example is those ridiculous commercials that run every 15 minutes on TV, trying to get you to ask your doctor about this pill. How much do they spend for that airtime? How many prescriptions could be filled with that money?

I believe the pharm companies send out reps to unduly influence perscribing doctors.

I believe they can help u if u have money. the better the medication the more they charge. If u don't have the right ins. or money u won't know if it will help.

I believe they tweak medications just a bit so they can call them a new med and charge exorbitant prices when the current drug becomes generic eligible. I've tried over 15 drugs to treat bipolar disorder, OCD, and GAD with little success. The current system of guess and check or trial by patient leaves me feeling helpless and hopeless.

I believe they wield too much power. I need the medications because my illness is mostly biological and talk therapy and self-care alone are not enough. I don't think they have the patients best interest at heart. Their pocket books come first.

I do not believe it is necessary to charge hundreds of dollars a month to uninsured patients for a single medication. People stop taking their medication for financial reasons and then they end up hospitalized or in jail after a psychiatric break. The cost of meds leads to a greater financial burdon on the community in my opinion.

I do not know how to feel about the companies because who is it really that drives the price of prescriptions.

I do not like the TV advertisements.

I do not trust them. I feel they push their medication over others at potential cost to the patient. They also push to go to medications first before alternative therapies.

I don't believe they have the patient's best interest in mind. It's all about the money.

I don't believe they should be able to advertise to the mass public. It causes hypochondria and the mis-belief that mental illness can be cured with a pill. Psychiatrists are pill pushers, but I believe they do so for the hospitals who are benefited by the pharmaceutical companies.

I don't know how they establish prices, but Abilify is enormously expensive and I don't know why.

I don't like it when representatives from their companies show up in my psychiatrist's office. It makes me feel uncomfortable.

I dont like that they appear to be super greedy corporations that only care about the money. I believe they should be more regulated, but they are a neccesary evil..

I don't like the trend of pharmaceutical companies advertising drugs on TV, the internet and in magazines. This does make them "pill-pushers" and creates patient pressure on doctors to prescribe medication that may not be warranted. And of course adds to the drug cost.

I don't mind if Pharmaceutical companies give away samples and buy lunches for Psychiatrists. I think Pharmaceutical companies should have powerpoint meetings with Physicians about new research. I think the medicine samples they give away should be starting doses and possibly a 6 week supply per patient.

I don't think that they do enough testing of drug side effects before they are put on the market.

I don't think they have an interest in researching actual cures, since treating the symptom is considerably more profitable.

I don't think they should be allowed to advertise on the media directly to patients.

I don't trust medications they release for "new" purposes at the near end of their patent. It appears to be rebranding to keep manking money.

I don't understand why pills are so much more expensive in this country than in other countries where I have friends (Canada, Germany, Mexico)

I feel it is horrible that pharmaceutical companies make huge profits off other peoples needs. People struggle with the cost of medications they need to live while these companies get rich.

I feel medications are too advertised, Advertisements for medications make people believe they have a psychological disorder and also influence people to change medications when they don't need to.

I feel sometimes the psychiatrist push certain drugs that the companies put out, without knowing the real side effects or even if it works.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

I feel that pharmaceutical companies main purpose is the monitary profit they make from medications.

I feel that pharmaceutical company reps. strongly influence the Rx's doctors prescribe - perhaps to a degree that is unethical and not in the best interest of the patient's health.

I feel that they need to address the issue of side effects more.

I feel the pharmaceutical companies deliberately over price the meds.

I feel they waste a lot of unnecessary money on promoting/advertising new drugs. It is really hard to be personally footing the bill for giveaways and perks and exorbitant drug rep salaries. None of these things help me or my family get well. I believe that most doctors rely more on word of mouth & medical information in journals when prescribing new medications.

I feel like the doctors prescribe the newer drugs because they are told too and it doesn't matter what is really good for the patient.

I firmly believe these companies want to make money. If they know a concoction may be harmful, they won't go out of their way to let it be known. Rather, they would hide it.

I generally have a good opinion of pharmaceutical companies, however I am tired of the price of the medications being out of the reach of the very people who need it the most.

I have a deep distrust of these companies. I believe they are out to make money and worry quite a bit about the side effects of the drugs they put out. However, I have seen how Lamictal and other drugs have had a radical affect on my life, and because of that, I take medication- I tend to trust my doctor, though I haven't always in the past. In the past, I was so desperate for a solution and my symptoms were so bad that I readily took the medicine prescribed, despite the considerable worries I had and stigma against it, which was very powerful in the religious tradition I was in. Now, having seen how the medicine helps, I have an easier time trying new ones.

I have bipolar and when one co removes a slow release lithium product (due to low profitability) I was FURIOUS! my associates in our bipolar assoc were just as angry. I think it was QUILANUM. we petitioned but nothing helped.

I have bitter feelings for the pharmaceutical companies that produced meds like Zyprexa, Nortrypteline (sp) and Seroquel which cause dreadful weight gain that seems unaffected by my efforts to control it. The doctors don't care. Others think I'm just a pig. This is my single largest gripe about the psychiatric industry.

I have come to mistrust some of their generic medications which they claim are "the very same" as the brand. They are not exactly the same. If one generic antidepressant pill is much smaller than another generic there must be a big difference as well as I have had two separate generic medications to not work (resulting in adverse effects) and was compelled to be prescribed the brand and got better.

I have had 2 experiences with a pharmaceutical co. turning down paying for the medication my doctor had prescribed for me. I feel at times they make it difficult for me to take a medication that my Dr. & I feel may help me with some of my symptoms. My Dr. & I know myself the best, and sometimes pharmaceutical company's have too much power over my wellness.

I have many long term negative effects from medications. Metabolic disorder, one of which is diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart trouble are all effecting my health adversely. Why can't the researchers working for pharmaceutical co.'s make medications that have fewer immediate side effects and long term side effects?

I have missed taking my psych medicine for none of the reasons you listed. My pill container had gotten empty the night before and I forgot to fill it and I was too tired to bother with it. No ulterior reasons other than laziness.

I have participated in many patient assistance programs and think they help a lot of people to get medications they otherwise could not afford.

I have studied this issue. I think that there are too many duplications of one chemical formula of a drug, for marketing purposes. I also wish they made smaller pills. They could also help doctors by opening up clinics.

I have very strong concerns about the privatization of pharmaceutical companies and the free-market approach to this industry. I believe that this is something that should be subsidized by the governments, which in return would make it more about providing a medical need to a patient and NOT about generating a profit, which is the ONLY thing it is about right now.

I know it's a business & everyone in business wants to see profits, including me (if I had my own business, I definitely want to see profits.) So it's understandable that pharmaceutical companies want to do as well, however I KNOW that there are Dr.'s who have a "special" relationship with pharmaceutical companies where Doctors get paid to prescribe one drug.

I like it when they leave samples to try.

I personally know medical researchers who are working hard to improve medications for various illnesses

I realize that it is costly to develop medications, and that some people cannot afford them. My drugs for other ailments have some really outrageous price tags. I am thankful that I have insurance that pays something on all of my medications. Even after insurance pays, some of my drugs are still terribly expensive.

I saw a documentary on Paxil and suicide risk for children and adolescents and it was rather concerning.

I STRONGLY believe that the pharmaceutical industry does GREAT harm to people who need to take meds through their exorbitant prices, shady and at times illegal marketing, excessive influence on physicians, (sometimes through the use of gifts, etc.), excessive influence on congress, and falsifying drug trial results. If there is any industry that needs cleaning up and serious reform, it's the pharmaceutical industry. They pretend that the little bit they give here and there in the way of drug assistance programs is truly helpful, when they have been the cause of the misery that people can't afford their medications in the first place. What is wrong with this system when people start buying their meds from Canada, Mexico and other countries? I myself with my doctor's approval have legally bought meds from Canada and Israel. I might also add that initially when I purchased meds from Canada, it was actually ILLEGAL. Big Pharma had pressured Congress to protect their monopolies. Only later did it become legal. I also think that because of the power of the internet, they realized they really couldn't control people ordering meds with valid prescriptions from other valid sources over the internet.

I strongly believe that they use their ridiculously large amounts of money to fund research for medications that treat conditions rather than research for cures or vaccinations, as in the case of bipolar disorder, type 1 which is what I have. They use their money to shape their image with savvy advertising with potential or existing consumers. I believe that the insurance companies are just as guilty. I am certain that insurance companies influence clinician's Rx choices and likewise I believe that pharmaceutical companies' influence clinicians' Rx. This country is a pill-popping society and believes that pills are the answer for every ailment. I believed in what my doctors told me, which was to influence me to take drugs rather than discussing alternative methods which I have been using with success these past 2 years.

I think it is crucial that doctors remain knowledgeable and act as a stop gap between patient and any or all pharma co.

I think it is wrong to have the fox watch the hen house

I think most of the drug companies try to act in the patients best interest, but that the profit motive can cloud their judgement.

I think most people are medicated unnecessarily.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

I think pharmaceutical companies advertise and push their medications too much to doctors and through TV and magazine ads, especially their new ones. They appear to claim that this is the medicine which will help you the most. I have heard a drug reps talk to family practice doctors and I believe it was too forceful and glossed over any possible side affects of the med. I don't feel pharmaceutical companies are always truthful and I believe that medications, particularly psychiatric medications and new medications are way too high priced.

I think pharmaceutical companies are far too influential in physician's prescribing behavior and this is detrimental to patients in the end because they are not necessarily given the best/most appropriate meds.

i think some pharmaceutical companies charge outrageous prices for their medications causing a financial hardship for the person who is using the med(s). sometimes you have to choose whether to pay a utility bill or purchase your medication. that should not be the situation!!

I think that a lot of the medications are really expensive. it is sad because i would probably kill myself if i didn't have them, but they are so hard to afford.

I think that many drugs work very well & have a million side effects (according to the inserts with the medication). This often scares people & they are afraid to even try them. As a nurse I realize that the companies have to put every little side effect on the inserts & they are not likely to happen to most people. I rely on my Doctor & his experience with prescribing the medication as to which side effects are really likely to occur. That usually relieves any fears I may have about a new medication.

I think that the cost of the medications is set by the pharmaceutical companies and they are very interested in making money not necessarily with my welfare.

I think that the pharmaceutical companies have too great of an influence on the psychiatrists.

I think that they have huge profit margins from drugs that we need just to survive.

I think the different pharmaceutical companies differ greatly in regard to question 23. I think some are in it primarily for profit with little care about the people taking their drugs. But some are much more concerned with helping people.

I think the PAP plans are the best thing in the world. If they were not available I would not be able to afford my most expensive and MOST helpful drug in my regime.

I think the prices they set for psychiatric medication is criminal

I think they are beneficial but I think there is too much emphasis on profit. Granted all companies are about making money BUT the two medications I take - Seroquel and Strattera don't have generics yet and with my HMO I pay \$50/month each for the top tier of the prescriptions. I'm able to afford it now, but it has been an issue in the past.

I think they are corrupt

I think they are too expensive but right now, I can afford them. Later in my life will bring a different story. Also, sometimes generics DON'T work the same way as the name-brands. More information regarding this is important.

I think they push pills but my doc understands I need the generic if possible

I think they should spend some of the large amounts of money they get from the sale of their drugs to research drugs with few side effects.

I think they spend too much on advertising but I'm not sure I want to regulate it.

I think this statement is a little harsh, but the best one out of the bunch. I think the pharmaceutical companies are in it for the profit and from my understanding, these companies have quite an influence on how the drugs get reviewed. As such, I think the system is currently setup in a way that doesn't provide the best protection for consumers, as the drug companies have control of what studies get published and how the drugs are reviewed. I think there is a place for medication in treatment of mental illness, but I think the current medications being prescribed are not well suited for most consumers. I would refer people to the books "Anatomy of an Epidemic" and "Mad in America" by Robert Whitaker. Also this link to Propublica is interesting because it provides a database of doctors that have links to the payroll of drug companies: <http://www.propublica.org/>

I took meds for almost 15 years. I no longer take them and part of that reason is because of my growing knowledge base about pharmaceutical companies, how they twist reality (and research) and how they market illness, then propose wellness is in a pill. I am so disenchanting!

I understand the costs for research and development but I DO NOT understand the pricing for these life saving medications. I think they should be made more available to the people who really need them. The survivors of mental illness tend to be disabled or low income, this makes newer pharmaceuticals completely out of reach. I receive disability and I make too much money to qualify for these pharmco programs. I make \$17,000 a year! I'm lucky to have family to pay my medicare co-pays for meds or I would not have them.

I understand they need to charge a great deal for medication in order to continue researching new medications, but they should be more considerate of people with moderate or low income and consider offering a more expanded low-cost prescription options program.

I want to be cured. The Corporate Profiteers want me hooked. The meds are detrimental to the body and eventually to the brain. The meds are a set up for enforcing the patient to eventually take ever more powerful, more expensive drugs. It is a racket. No one is interested in investing in my recovery.

I was taking Seroquel for years and then the pharmaceutical company created Seroquel XR saying it was much better. When I took it I began to hallucinate (visually). I never in my life had hallucinations before and they stopped after I went back on Seroquel. But it is more expensive. My medical provider said that a majority of her patients did not tolerate Seroquel XR, but the drug representative was still pushing her to prescribe it. I will never trust them and I will always do my homework before I try something new.

I wish the dr.'s would offer samples for the first month of treatment on a new medication so you dont have to pay for it only to find out it is not right for you. Samples are very hard to come by when you cant afford them every now and then also.

I wish they would make the cost of the medications reasonable.

I work for a very large specialty pharmacy(non-psych meds) and have close contact with pharm company reps. My experiences have been largely positive.

I work in a community mental health center and the pharmaceutical reps come EVERY week and provide us the providers with elaborate lunches. They bring us other "bribes" as well. It is a perk as a provider but I do think it influences the prescribers choice which is not always in the clients best interest.

I work in the medical profession and I also have bipolar disorder. The pharmaceutical reps that visit my office to not know of my disorder. What bothers me is that most of them come in dressed in very expensive clothes, wear expensive jewelry and offer expensive perks to me and my staff. This makes me wonder if the company is more interested in patient care or just the bottom line.

I worked at one time as a salesman for a pharmaceutical company, and liked to think that I was a significant influence on what the doctors' that I called on prescribed. However, after many years as a patient taking medications, I believe that the doctors prescribe what is best for the patient.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

I worked in the medical field 13 years. As a medical assistant I saw Drug Reps all the time. All of them were always helpful when I asked questions about the drugs. So, from personal experience, they were great!

I worked in the Pharmaceutical business and know they are more concerned about making money than effective drugs. Not every one in their clinical trials has safe or effective results! There is no 100% safety and effectiveness in any psychotropic drug trial.

I worry about generic drugs being different from brand names, even with the cost difference.

I'm afraid their profit motive may override their interest in patient needs at times.

I'm cautious because I have been told in the past that the medication I was being prescribed was safe with minimal side effects but wasn't the case. I'm still suffering from the damage it has caused my body.

I'm cautious about trusting pharm companies because they are like any other a business. A new drug is released when the company feels it has maximized its profits on the old drug. On occasion the new drug in a combination of two old drugs with a clinical trial supporting increased efficacy with the combo above and beyond the two individual drugs.

I'm not at all comfortable with how they over price their products so that those who really need the medicines can't afford or access them.

I'm not sure I am helped by medication.

I'm sure there are good people working there as there are greedy ones.

I'm thankful the pharm. co. researches and comes out with medications. New ideas for medications do sometimes get better with this research. I also remember that the pharm. co. is in business to make money just like any other business.

im think they are paying doctors kick-backs

I'm very concerned about generic drugs. They're NOT the same. They only have to come within 20% of the actual dose of active ingredients and they make me sick. Brand name drugs are overpriced but w/o that revenue there isn't \$ for research.

In the past ten years, the big business of pharmaceuticals has produced more medications at a higher cost that have not necessarily proved safe or to be great improvements over "older" medications. Medicating more people has not necessarily improved the overall quality of life of individuals, or reduced the need for services. It is very difficult as a provider to see pharm. reps. in expensive clothes sitting in the waiting rooms with our clients...

Interested in money only.

Irresponsible

It does take money to develop medications. However, the companies spend a lot on advertising to the public and to physicians.

It is very hard to have trust about things that are allowed to be helpful to people but there are some people that just have a very hard time with medicines.

It is well-known that Pharm Co's give physicians Kick-Backs on products they write prescriptions for. This should be illegal.

It seems as if newer medications are pushed a little harder by my prescriber before longer term studies are performed.

It seems to me that pharmaceutical companies are most interested in their bottom line. They often/regularly fund and conduct clinical trials in such a way that their medication shines bright, even if it is no more efficacious than an older med. I think there is a way for drug companies to be scrupulously honest about the science as well as being balanced and responsible business people. I have felt that as a consumer of mental health services I have been victimized by self servicing business practices of the pharmaceutical companies.

It would be naive to say that pharm companies don't have their own and their shareholders interests at heart, but there is little good that can come from presenting a drug to market that is not an improvement, or a new approach to treating illness. And of course they have to pay for the r&d and advertising etc. so of course they want docs to Rx their meds. And I am willing to accept this if it means that I have the possibility of getting medications that help me live better with my condition

It's business - not altruism. They produce many excellent medications but research and development is for the big bucks - also, sometimes the push to get a medication approved is stronger than the interest in safety.

It's sad it seems they are most concerned about making money, rather than us, the people who benefit from their drugs.

I've had a much better outcomes using non-generic medication. I hope companies continue to provide consumers with choices since these seemingly small factors have a tremendous impact on one's quality of life.

I've sold products (ingredients) to the pharmaceutical companies such as masking agents or excipients. Selling costs of drugs is no longer what the market will bear, but to what extent governments allow pharmaceuticals to charge whatever price they think they can get away with charging. The US government is as much to blame as the pharmaceuticals.

Key issues that cause mistrust are sales force abuses and suppression of relevant data. It is also disturbing that some companies have decided to opt out of psychiatric drug research and development. By the way, your question on sources of information on drugs should have included books as an answer choice.

Lately it seems they have been rushing new drugs to market.

Like State and Federal Govt. Medicine is Big Business and N=Big Business is not usually concerned with a patient such as myself. It's the bottom line and I am a statistic to them. Neither good nor bad, just a number. Unfortunately the medicines made by them can determine whether I live or die and I don't think individuals as patients (med takers) are taken into consideration when the CEO's and their lobbyist hit Cap. Hill for Ins. rate hikes and FDA approval on barely tested meds. Just my opinion.

Many times the FDA has to step in to change labels that don't tell everything about the drug. For instance, putting suicidal warnings on them. The companies often leave out important information on the drugs that consumers will be taking. We as consumers have a right to know everything about the drug before we risk our lives taking it.

medication is overpriced. the better and more popular a med is, the more it costs.

Medications have changed my life, but they are so costly that, I worry about continuing to be able to afford them, and I have insurance.

Money Money thats all they really want

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

my 27 year old son Justin killed himself last year while taking cymbalta for a short time i contacted the company several times for information about the drug, the risks and how and why the FDA requires the suicide black box warning on this drug. what research is this based on.. they never responded. I think this is unacceptable and they should be required to disclose and supply the information they have especially when there has been a problem .

My biggest complaint is that their prices are not geared to the patient but to their bottom line. Lithium is not expensive, but there are many drugs that people need that are priced very high.

My brother is a SR. marketing executive for a pharm. comp. and when my son was put on meds for early onset BP he was outraged that I would allow it because it will cause...(listed side-effects) what a bad mother I was. It has caused a rift between us. I also have BP disorder and he treats me like I am retarded; I am working on a Ph.D in psychneuroimmunology. That mentality is rampant in the pharm.corp. field; little to zero empathy or personal understanding. They need some training with a face attached and real life stories for major enlightenment.

My father had a stroke because a medication prescribed to him didn't carry a warning at the time about it. Knowing that that can happen makes it nearly impossible to trust anything a pharmaceutical company puts out.

My father is a Psychiatrist, and before legal restrictions went into place limiting companies from giving him as many free samples as they wanted- he was able to acquire for me enough of my medication that I didn't even need to buy it! Because he was a doctor who could prescribe it, and if he used so many of their samples, then he would be more likely to prescribe it to other patients. Now, however, limitations prevent this- and it reminds me that so many others who have a genuine need, whose insurance companies limit their prescription coverage, cannot get this help. Drug companies overcharge tremendously during the early period of a drug- and those like myself who are best helped by a newer medication pay the price.

My first Psychiatrist withheld medications from me that I believed would help me because he preferred to prescribe those medications he was supporting through specific pharmaceutical companies and was a paid speaker for one of them. He is no longer my Psychiatrist.

My medications have definitely helped but I think we too often jump right to the "give 'em a pill" solution. Pharmaceutical companies are businesses and such their goal is to make a profit.

My mother told me they can advertise in a drs office and for that the dr will push their merchandise and earn money for doing that. This horrifies me and makes me very angry. In fact the dr who prescribed ABillify to me had these procures all over her waiting room. She did NOT warn me of signifigant side effect that did effect me horribly. i learned about them on a tv commercial that she prescribed benzetropine which has the same side effect possibility.

Occasionally when finances permit I use medical cannabis as an additional medication. I find that Medical marijuana, when used responsibly, helps my bipolar symptoms a great deal. It is also an excellent sleep aid with no side effects. It is too bad that the pharmaceutical companies withhold cannabis as a potential alternative natural treatment.

Of course, I am grateful for the work that pharm scientists do. My concern is that the companies release the meds without adequate testing or without making certain that doctors and pharmacists make very clear to patients what possible harmful side effects may occur and when patients should call their provider due to severe effects.

Our country needs to get away from the idea that a pill will cure all and start learning skills to become an important FIRST defense in whatever illness or disease they have. The mind is a powerful tool!

Overcharge for medication and advertise too much-too many doctors are in their pockets.

Pharmaceutical companies are like all other companies. They are in business to MAKE MONEY! I don't think they care concerned about patients. The prices on medications are outrageous. Some of the generics are okay.

Pharmaceutical companies are only interested in promoting their companies product. Not all medications in the same class work the same.

Pharmaceutical companies are responsible to their shareholders just like any other company. They need to maintain their reputations, but profit motive is their driving force. This is not all bad.

Competition does drive pharmaceutical companies to do better at R&D We are however dependent on the FDA for consumer protection.

Pharmaceutical companies disgust me with their greed. Spending billions on advertising drugs, while millions of people go without medication that can relieve their suffering. That is unacceptable to me!

Pharmaceutical companies generally act in the interest of their shareholders, as they are obligated to do. However, doing this means providing the highest level of care possible to their patients.

Pharmaceutical companies -profit businesses that put profits ahead of the aid to humanity. Still, I am grateful for the continuing research and development that has led to the meds that help me daily.

Pharmaceutical companies seem to have too much influence over doctors.

Pharmaceutical companies should not be allowed to influence doctors by offering them money, vacations etc. for prescribing the medications. They should go back to the days of giving doctors pens and socks. Also, with psychotropic medications, they need to keep long term studies of drugs going.

Pharmaceutical companies, like most companies, are in business to make money. I feel they push the newest and latest meds to offset the cost of years of research that went into a medicine.

Pharms spend a lot of money giving back to the community in education, outreach, community building, special events, conferences

Prescriptions cost too much and big PHARMA is greedy.

Profit margins often seem more important than helping.

Profit seems to be their primary motivation.

Rxs were my last choice of Tx

Seroquel is the biggest reason I distrust pharmaceutical companies. The majority of the people I know who have taken psych meds in the last 6 years have been on Seroquel. It is an expensive med that works on the histamine receptor just like Benadryl which is why it makes people tired....and for a lot more money. I have never taken another med that so many people have been on at one point or another...that's just wrong.

Since they have allowed to begin advertising, I think they have greatly increased the amount of medications being taken without showing the real side effects. I truly think it is scary the way that ABILIFY has been advertised, not showing in the lovely actors/actresses the tardive dystenia and the severe weight gain that many often experience. Ability IS NOT an anti-depressant, it is an anti-psychotic. Just because the company can't make enough selling it as such does not mean it should be able to see to people who are desperate but don't know its severe effects.

Some companies are good, some are bad. But, as a whole they fill a need.

Some generics are not available.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

Some medications are necessary, but insurance companies and big pharmaceutical companies are in collusion with doctors so that people become dependent on medication and no other option is given to them. Doctors get an easier job, they don't have to relate to their patients, all they have to do is see how distraught the patient is and provide them with a medication that is no more experimental than the patients' desperation level. The doctor gets to feel smart without having to re-frame themselves into a nasty state of mind to relate and doesn't even have to have any politically incorrect conversations and probably gets some kick backs, all without the risk of getting sued. The insurance companies will never have to provide the actual care that people need, just a cycle of mental breakdown and hospitalization, which conveniently supplies the pharmaceutical companies with bodies to pump full of drugs.

Some of the medications weren't tested in people with bipolar disorder before they were prescribed to them (e.g. SSRIs) which had a very different effect (inducing mania) in this population versus people with only depression.

Some of them care and do a good job and othes don't care and just push there pills .

sometimes do not carry generic medications that are crucial for bipolar and other sufferers of mental health to allow them to function as normal adults.

SSRIs are extremely dangerous. I had my first manic episode immediately after taking my first Zoloft which was prescribed by a psychologist without taking a proper family history.

The companies need to designate some of the PR monies to reduction in cost to patients and taxpayers.

The companies place profit way before human need. Their drug studies that they do for the FDA are not to be trusted: they set them up and can manipulate the results anyway that they want to. I usually try to find independent studies to confirm what the companies say.

The Congress and Obama sold out to prescription law. Seniors should not be caught in the donut hole. Too little prescription reform from Congress.

The cost of my medication is ridiculously high

The cost of the medicines and there telling the doctor's what I should take. The doctor has already tried the medicins and they did not work so then the suggest it again to document it and it then sets you back. My mental health cannot stand this.

the fact that they are generally international profit motivated corporations is my primary concern.

the government and tort system makes it hard for them to charge a reasonable price. but then again they are in for for the profit as well. it's hard to tell which is really in our best interest.

The high cost of the drugs they develop defeats the usefulness to consumers and limits the impact on the mentally ill population.

The long-term side effects may not be discovered until numerous individuals have taken the medications and some end up with additional health complications. For example: tremors, liver damage, etc.

The main purpose of pharmaceutical companies is to make money, rather than to help people. There are lots of natural substances with no or mild side effects that help mental illness, but rather than promote these, we are told to take chemicals that do help the symptoms, but harm the body. When I take a natural supplement (such as fish oil) I don't have to take 2 other medicines to treat the side effects from the first medication! Also, one of the problems is that the medical community treats only symptoms, and doesn't look for the cause of the symptoms (whole body treatment).

The marketing REALLY bothers me. Appears to be an easy fix with out all the other work that goes into getting well.

The medication I need is life-saving and I am grateful to the scientists who have the skills and intelligence to create these medications. However, I believe pharmaceutical companies only care about how much money they make and have no concern for the patient at all.

The methods used to promote new perscriptions to doctors. ie. office lunches, promotional product. The fact that it is more of an industry driven primarily by sales.

The pharmaceutical business reins in higher profits, absorbantly high, each year, made on the backs of those who, like me, many times have to choose between food and medication. The Medicare Drug Program is only helpful if your income is low enough that you qualify for the LIS ("extra help"). For others it only feeds the Pharm Industry. Social Security recipients received no increase this year, but my Medicare drug plan's monthly premium increased \$25/month. PLUS they decided to no longer cover one of my psychiatric meds. They make the rules and no one takes them on. They have our government in their pockets. There is no one to speak for those whom they exploit!

The pills are too much and the insurance companies will not cover people with a history of bipolar. What are we to do? It's cruel in a way. It's like saying you have a cure but you can't have it. The cure is only for well people, people that can still work.

The process with how they can recieve approval for medications from the FDA is appalling. There seems to be no long term studies showing that we are moving in the right direction. Too often we learn of a drugs negative impact on our bodies well after the fact.

The products have helped and will help many people. I know there have been many "failures" due to individual patient's reaction to drugs; wrong dosage; failure to incorporate a life (alive) plan with the drug plan. I would pretty much be a fool not to believe the priority in this business is making money.

The profit motive is taken to extremes with Big Pharma and should be regulated - limited - like it's done elsewhere in the world

Their bottom line is still the bottom line.

Their doctors think they know more than your own doctor does and charge you more if you choose to stay with your doctor's prescription.

Their financial books should be open for every user of their drugs and America, just to see why their prices are so high. Full discloser should be required of the industry. Then there can be debate on if that companies are focused first on customer satisfaction compared to shareholders and CEOs cut of the profits.

Their public perception might be improved if they put pills in proper perspective - and show medication as one element in an overall wellness program / regimine.... showing physical health (exercise, diet, outdoors), emotional health (gathering of family, friends, community), mental health (educational settings, learning environments), and spiritual health (giving back through service to others).... pills are a tiny fraction of a holistic perspective and while they can be helpful - they are not the whole of health.

There are so many commercials about all different drugs that they can confuse people during there treatment process.

There have been myriads of articles about the reasons that I should not trust pharmaceutical companies and I agree with these articles. Although I need these drugs, I don't understand why lithium (which is supposed to be the best drug for BIPOLAR I) has NEVER been prescribed for me. I know that lithium has very little financial gain for any pharmaceutical company. I also firmly believe that junkets and financial compensation to doctors over the years is a main reason why I don't trust drug companies.

There is far too much economic incentive for them to recommend that their drugs be taken for life.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

There is something super-fishy to me about all of them, despite the significant fact that drugs can be lifesaving. The enormous amount of money involved with these companies makes me extremely skeptical.

There seems to be an attitude (not limited to pharmaceutical companies) that it is ok to compromise on the testing the long-term safety of new medications because they 'help' a severe condition. Unfortunately, some medications may cause such significant side effects that those side effects compound the condition and make it harder to treat (or indeed introduce new conditions that require separate treatment).

There should be some method in place where doctors could find information on medications their practice uses, highlighting the newest meds, newly revised meds, and the the rest.

These companies are easily wealthy enough, and to a large degree because of the medicines they've made on paschiatric drugs, to support a complete overhaul of the pitiful medical system and social system we have to protect the mentally ill, yet they stand by and do nothing.

They and/or the pharmacists themselves push Generic forms of name brand medication because they are less expensive. What they do not tell the consumer is that some of these Generic medications are produced in other countries! Little or no regulation exists! Also, Pharmacists try to sell the idea that generic drugs are exactly the same as name brands. My intimate experience with Generics is that they are not at all the same and 2 of them nearly KILLED me!

They are "cost" freaks and rape the american public

They are all out to make money- that is their bottom line.

They are crooks and incorporate the Millions in fines they pay into the cost of the next drug. They don't care about anything but a dollar.

They are dropping the ball in developing breakthrough drugs with a different means of action than existing drugs. I am also deeply troubled by the lack of long-term research on individual drugs, the lack of research on combinations of drugs, and the withholding of unfavorable research results, which is partly a result of the FDA process for approval.

They are excellent manipulators of the data extracted from the drug trials. They have too much influence on doctors, leading many of them to believe that newer is better. They have the majority of the public convinced there is a drug for any condition, from discomfort to life-threatening.

They are for profit and like any sales organization will make every effort to recoup their R&D monies and maximize profit before the patent expires.

They are greedy. Their primary concern is their pockets not the care of or benefit to the people they were originally supposed to help.

They are in bed with psychiatrists and many so-called advocacy organizations such as NAMI. It is disgusting, and there must be full disclosure of all funding for such organizations.

They are in business to make a profit...it would be idealistic and foolish to believe that the company as a whole has an interest in helping people...maybe some of the people that work there do...maybe even the person or people that started the company or did the research to discover the meds...but the company itself makes the policies and makes them in a way that increases profits not wellness

they are inservicing pcp drs on meds for mood dis and these drs have no prof training that they truly DON'T understand the meds nor the disorders the meds are for. They just push the newest meds.

They are only interested in making money - they have no interest in providing safe and affordable medications.

They are out for their own gain, above all. Many pharmaceutical firms hide negative research results so that their drugs can be FDA-approved.

They are out to sell their meds and put on the market too fast. Only to have to jerk them off the market after people are hurt or killed by them.

They ARE pill-pushers and they minimalize or hide the negative effects of their products. They should offer natural, safer treatments where available, especially since all of their products cause harmful effects. Whatever happened to the Hypocratic oath: 'Firstly, do no harm.' They are far more concerned with making huge profits than with the well-being of consumers.

They are selling medications and have no interest in finding paths to cures or to long lasting or permanent recovery.

They are slow to disclose all the facts about medications including possible side effects so as not to interfere with their profits. GREEDY. CORRUPT. WITHOUT CONSCIENCE.SELF-SERVING. BEHEMOTH MONSTERS WITH WAY TOO MUCH POWER. LIARS.

They are too slow in creating generics or lower cost alternatives for people taking maintenance medications for long periods of time or lifetime continuous use.

They charge more than you ned to for medicines to cheat patients

they charge to much money for medications people need

They could do much more to make medication available to those who need it and still make a reasonable profit.

They cover up deaths and terrible side effects in order to sell drugs; they push through new drugs without thoroughly testing them first and only reluctantly and after many deaths do they call them back, and they deny, deny, deny if something happens to you. They are far too powerful in this country, with their lobbying, too.

They create meds to make money and dont test them throughly before releasing them.

They definitely help quite a bit but they charge so much I dont know how they spend it. I Beleive they mark most everyone thing up at least 10,000 per cent and much more. They have more lobbists in washinton than there are senators and congressman. WE live in a very sickening money hungry society seems as though just the politicians used to be liars thieves and whores. HELL NOW EVEN SOME KIDS ARE CON ARTISTS they learned by example.IT is impossible for this to continue we are headed for a major disater I have preached it for years but if it dont look good feel good taste good no one will listen. FOOLS

They do not have the patients' benefits at heart. They are out to make more money and that is their sole interest!

they do not matter to me at this point, I would be dead if it weren't for circles of care.

They do not tell of side effects right. You do not know you have any till you start taking their medications. There is not always a brochure given when I start a new medication, and I find out about the medication online.

They do push meds, mostly good facts about them without regard to the long term effect.

They don't get it ! They think that all people need to do is pop pills ! There are many ways to work towards mental health wellness.

They downplay the side effects of the medication. You have to button-hole doctors to get them to admit that diabetes is as prevalent as it is among mental health consumers. Even watching my diet carefully, I have developed higher than normal blood sugar levels over the years.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

They give my psychiatrist samples and no information packets to give us. Then that is the medication we end up with. I don't think they should be able to give samples to doctors. I know more about my medications than my own Psychiatrist by looking online. I find out my side effects online too. I mentioned ssri and snri to my doctors office, and she had no idea what I was talking about! Yet they prescribe an snri to me, how scary is that. So the pharmaceutical company didn't inform my doctor what the medication was capable of in the form of side effects.

They give out the best post-it-notes and the neatest pens.

They have created miraculous drugs, but their need to continue to have drugs under patent so they can charge "name brand" rather than "generic" prices is pushing up drug expenses. I have tried the latest meds for diabetes, asthma, allergies, bipolar disorder, and GERD, and changed to tried-and-true generics b/c they worked fine for me.

They have their place. I just want them to be ethical.

They make a hell amount of money and the poor cant afford it!!!!!!!!!!!!

They make generics and I have come to be very cautious because some have very adversely caused problems.

they make harmful pills like seroquel that i take!

They may produce meds I need but they are a BUSINESS and their goal is to make money. Right now mood disorders drugs are big business.

They need to look beyond where the money is. For example, examine possibly more effective, but potentially less profitable antidepressants that don't work of of the Monoamide Hypothesis of depression.

they need to work harder not to create new meds but improve the side effects of existing meds - so there is not as much tics or weight gain or constipation

They only care about making money, not about the health and welfare of the people taking their medications, especially when it comes to mental illnesses.

They produce effective, crucial medication for my psychological wellbeing, but who can pay \$1000 a month for two prescriptions? No pill costs that much to manufacture and both of my meds have been on the market long enough for research costs to have been recovered and then some. It is pure greed and preying on the most vulnerable people in our society and it should be stopped.

They produce many valuable drugs, but they produce and market drugs that are most profitable, not what's most needed. Their profits are excessive at a time when people are sick or dying that can't afford their meds (and I'm not just talking about those with no insurance; I'm talking about those with insurance where the cost is still too high to buy their meds.) They also pay their sales reps far too much --- it's a slick and nauseating game.

They push to make money and do not really think of the user.

They realize that naturapathic medication is the real healer, however, they are not interested because it's all about the pharmaceutical companies making money.

They should a least let consumers know what side effects they really have So one could choose to take them or not

They should make the medications more affordable to us. It's impossible for those of us suffering from mental illness to afford the high priced medications. At the same time. We should not be lab rats that they try meds on that they don't have an idea how they will work on us.

They should not be allowed to have exclusive rights to a medication for years. Generic versions of all medications should be made available.

They should not be allowed to interact directly with the psychiatrist. That plays a role in what the psychiatrist prescribes to the patient, and not in the best interest of the patient's health. It seems that the entire psychiatric practice has changed and I have been in therapy my entire life. Now they don't have 50 minute sessions, it is just a medication check. In order to get effective help you have to see two doctors: one for medications and one to talk to. This costs the consumer more money and does not help with the low income individuals who cannot afford health care costs.

They should not be the primary source of research funding. Their interests are too often in conflict with ours.

They should try to drive down the cost.

They shouldn't be permitted to lobby physicians and psychiatrists.

they shouldn't pay doctors to help push certain drugs.

they sit on negative side effects like eli Lilly and weight gain with zyprexa

they spend way too much on marketing and advertising

They take medicines that are about to become generic and add an ingredient to make them brand name. I pay 3 times as much through my insurance for brand name. Some Drs. try to change my medications to the "new and improved" even though I think what I'm on works just right. I've just had to say no to my Doctor.

They think nothing of raising the cost of the medication.

They try to get as much money as they can: they're a business after all.

They, as any company, are more interested in selling their product and making a profit. The well being of patients seems to be a secondary consideration.

Too many companies give kick backs to clinics and doctors. Because there has been some crack down it is even harder to catch but still a problem. If a person can not afford medications then they should be made available to them some way, and no medication should be dispensed because of a drug company pushing it.

too much drug rep involvement concerning what my psych doc could choose as best for me

unfortunately they do not give enough med samples for the Drs to give out as the Drs run out of samples when a patient needs to try them before filling out scripts of there own!

Up to recently, they spend a great deal of money on enticing the doctor through lunch purchases. The doctors of course have agreed to this and insisted on this practice. In order to have reps see the physician he/she must by "lunch" for the whole office before they can get 5 minutes with the Doc. This could cost up to 400.00 each time. I know, I had to do this.

usually any new medication they put out on the market is nothing more than the same ole same ole with a lil molecular modification.

Very concerned in their role of providing benefits to Drs - cash, trips, etc.; extremely concerned about their heavy hand in studies they fund; and I think it's unethical to allow them to push name brands in advertising directly to the public

WE ALL KNOW THEY ARE ABOUT MAKING MONEY OUT OF PROVIDING MEDICATION...HOWEVER, THE MEDS SEEM TO HAVE MORE SIDE EFFECTS ARE ARE MORE DANGEROUS TO SOME POPULATIONS

We live in a capitalist society. There is no doubt that pharm companies want to make a profit. That being said they have made huge strides in treatment for mental illnesses and the public doesn't hear enough from the people like me who have been helped enormously from treatment with medications.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

Well-documented evidence that advertising drives prescribing to the detriment of all. Doctors shamelessly prescribe junk re-patents like Seroquel extended release when the benefits are minimal and the cost goes up ten-fold.

When I see sales reps waiting in the lobby my blood boils. I feel Pfizer Glaxo Wyeth etc make drugs to KEEP people sick, NOT to cure them. Curing them does not make good business sense. They give free samples to make your symptoms better, so you keep taking them since they help. But in the long run the steps you need to take to TRULY feel better don't involve a pill: exercise, eating right, meditation etc. They don't give a crap about that. Being bipolar, I need to continue taking medications such as lithium to correct the imbalance in my brain. But for PCPs to randomly prescribe SSRIs for anyone who seems depressed is a serious mistake. They need to stop currying favor with PCPs and only visit psychiatrists who are qualified to diagnose patients and prescribe the correct pharm for their illness. Psychiatric drugs are NOT candy, and SHOULD NOT be given out on a whim.

While I believe pharmaceutical companies are very useful in developing new drugs and treatments for mental illness, the cost are outrageous. There is know reason the same drug in this country should cost triple verses another country. The pharmaceutical companies should see menatal illness as a disease like it is.

While some of my medications are considered 'formulary', the one medication that my doctor feels would be most beneficial- way more than any other options- is so expensive my insurance won't even pay for part of it. (I have BlueCross BlueShield!) Since I have a lot of side effect issues, being able to try new, improved medications would make a big difference in my quality of life.

While there are bad apples among all companies, I believe that the pharmaceutical industry is unfairly demonized by insurance companies and politicians.

Who ever came up with this survey is terribly incompetent and one-sided! There are other sides to this issue that aren't being addressed. #23 should have "produce treatment options that a) help everyone b) help some c) doesn't help everyone. And what of medical alternatives and the fact that doctors are brain-washed into thinking that a drug is some sort of God that will cure all?

Why do they STILL get to come into a doctors office and bring lunch? That's crazy!

Without my current med "cocktail" I wouldn't be able to function. I am thankful.

Zeprexa cause me to be extremely hungary all the time, and I could never get full. A full feeling. It caused me to gain 40 pounds within a few months time.

#7- I never hid the fact that I had not taken the drug as prescribed and was open about the reason for doing so (usually it was to reduce side effects or the dose was too strong). I listen to my body and know it is very sensitive to drugs. #8- The #1 reason I adjust the dosage or discontinue a drug before seeing a Dr. is due to unbearable side effects. I have on a few occasions not refilled a Rx because I did not have the money to cover the co-pay. #19- I also read the PDR and other books on psychiatric drugs.

All they are interested in is making money.

As a consumer, if it were not for NAMI and the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, I would have never found the linkages to learn about medications.

Big Pharma should not release antidepressants that are basically the same but stamp a different name on them.

Blarg!

Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em!

Corporatism & Capitalism = the customer is their intended ultimate slave to suck money out of....Why not \$1000.00/pill? Why not? People are losing their homes, unable to afford food & executives are golfing in Hawaii & sucking in 1-million \$\$ BONUSSES. That is way, way wrong!

Cost is a major issue for many patients, and I couldn't qualify for any medication even though at the time I was unemployed. I also don't like the fact that I'm told to take certain medications that are very expensive. I've had to push the doctor to want to take similar medications that are less expensive because if I cannot afford them I will not take them.

Doing my own research, I have found out that these companies are all about money and they HIDE the true facts of what these meds can really do to you. They use docs to push the pills and some of them get HUGE paybacks for using their patients as lab mice. They don't care about us just money. Why does 1 pill cost over 20.00? The companies charge that much to line the pockets of their own people and not research. But thank God for the meds that do work.

Everyone knows that, over the past 10-20 years, pharmaceutical companies are low down and dirty. They synthesize medications to help people and they do help a large number of people. But their main objective is not to "help" more people. Their main objective is to make more money. If that means that some people will not be able to afford their products then too bad. It doesn't affect them, they do not feel the effects of a "sick" person. They do not see the turmoil that is caused in peoples' lives by not having their medicine. I believe that there was a time where these companies did actually care about the public and their health. But it seems now that they are 60% profiteers and 40% concerned and dedicated to creating these medications for the sole purpose of helping out population as a whole. Medicine should not be a business, rather it should be what it was meant to be. A way to ensure that the country is healthy and to save lives. Of course, this is just what I think and my thoughts are not going to change what "is".

For the most part, they mean well; however, they are not without fault.

generally, I think these companies do try to help people, but in search of the mighty \$\$\$ they sometimes rush meds to market that either don't work or cause severe side effects. No one wants to be a Guinea pig for these companies, but sometimes thats how we feel when other meds don't work and we have no other option but to try them.

Hello I take me medicataion every day.

I am concerned by recent news of companies getting in trouble for recommending medications for uses that haven't been FDA approved. I also beleive that they hold too much sway in Washington DC and are a big reason why healthcare costs are sky rocketing.

I am very concerned about the influence that pharmaceutical companies have on prescribing providers.

I am very thankful for the prescription assistance programs becasue I would not be able to afford my medications without them, and, therefore, I would not be able to function in the community or attend school. I have heard stories about the demands of pharmaceutical companies, but I have not experienced any negative effects firsthand.

I am wary of the FDA. I do not believe the Food sold in the average American Supermarket is healthy (pesticides, preservatives, packaging) I don't believe labeling is simple to understand or adequate to describe contents and I don't believe the FDA adequately regulates pharmaceutical industry with respect to drug safetey testing or research etc., long-term studies, etc., I prefer alternative medicine and natural remedies and natural health approaches than pharmaceutical approaches. And I eat organic food. I don't trust the Food and Drug Administration. or the Pharmaceutical Companies.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

I believe it is unethical for a doctor to receive a financial incentive for prescribing certain medications. I have wanted to get off antidepressants for several years, but every attempt has horrible consequences for me and my family. I have asked my psychiatrist to lower the dose, but he just gives new medications to counteract the side effects! My antidepressant causes high blood pressure, but the blood pressure meds cause depression!! It's a vicious cycle!

I believe that Drug companies over charge for their drugs. Many people who need the meds and who do not have good or no medical insurance are hard pressed in taking care of themselves because they must choose to go without food if they want to get relief from their mental illness. Pharmaceutical companies should be regulated or not be sooo greedy!!!

I believe that there are some that are pill pushers and some that truly have the patient's best interest at heart. I also believe that they push meds thru to the public before the med has been tested completely. I believe that if some meds were tested longer, that they would find the med does not do what it was originally was created for. Also, that some meds would not make it to the public level because of side effects.

I believe these companies are very motivated by profit, and release drugs with too little human research on side effects and such.

I believe they are a business and as such price meds as high as they can .

I believe they are very into the financial aspect of it.

I believe they change the formula's when their more important drugs become generic so that the physicians will write the scripts for the new formula.

I believe they generally act in patients' best interest, but feel as though cost could be cut somewhere to make it affordable. Where to cut cost-I don't know but we can all trim fat from somewhere!

I BELIEVE THEY HAVE TOO MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE COST FACTOR TO THE CONSUMER.

I believe they have too much influence on what the doctors are prescribing, and since they aren't benefiting from generics, they overstate the benefits of the newest drug they're marketing.

I do believe that it is all about the bottom dollar. Look at the use of Lithium. It was a know treatment that in the end wasn't pushed because no one could profit of of the natural substance.

I do have some concerns about the drug companies influence on the medical world. I certainly appreciate samples but I want to be certain I am getting a med because it fits my problem, not because a drug company is pushing it. I also do not like when a drug company makes some small change in a medication to keep it in the trade market vs allowing it to go into the generic field.

I do not agree with their animal testing policies, and, if there were any other choices, I would use medication produced with alternative testing methods.

I do not trust pharmaceutical companies, and I believe they are in this to make money. However, I need the medication they provide. I believe that there are some people working for them who are well-intentioned, and the same goes for insurance companies. But overall, I do not trust either one. They are for-profit corporations trying to do just that make a profit.

I don't believe pharma companies are evil, but they are a business and have a great impact on treatment because of their relationships with doctors and providers. With that said, I'm hesitant with their motivation for pushing a certain drug.

I don't like how they present "new" meds as new when they are just slightly different variations of old meds ("me too" meds, I think they are called). These are far more expensive & often old meds are just as effective.

I feel that they are more interested in making money than the people that take the medications.

i generally believe that the researchers doing work for drug companies do so because they wish and intend to help people. however, when those researcher's income is directly affected by the success of a drug that they worked on, i believe the conflict of interest is too great for them to be completely trustworthy or trusted. as for the drug companies themselves, they have stockholders to answer to and are primarily interested in seeing a profit from the drugs they produce. that being the case, they cannot and should not be trusted to act ONLY in the interests of the patients who will take these drugs.

I have heard things about them being pill-pushers and I think it may be true, but I don't know yet for sure. Anyway, not everyone is the same in any generalization.

I have been in the system 25 years and this is the first time i have in 20 that i have had to ration my drugs to make ends meet my husband doesn't realise that i am taking half of my prescribed meds on my most expensive med

i have never trusted pharm co's. there have been many drugs discontinued due to really negative side effects (at least 1 of which i was on for a while). i have always trusted my psych. dr. when i was prescribed meds. i always took them how as prescribed. medications didn't work on me. my dose had to keep increasing as any wanted effect kept disappearing..until dose was too high and all i had were negative side effects. variety of combinations were tried before my dr. helped me off of meds completely.

I have read in several places that the companies give misleading or omit information that might discourage a MD from prescribing or a client taking the medication. I believe the bottom line is making money.

I hope we are not too naive to understand that they are for profit companies with a bottom line but they have rules and regulation that they must follow through the FDA. Maybe a good set of checks and balances. Hopefully the FDA is doing it's job and is not being influence by politics.

I need medication for my medical condition but i get so frustrated on the cost of the medication. How do elderly people pay for them? They make medication that help improve our quality of life but everything is getting too expensive. I want to get better and get a job and lead a "normal" life again but it takes a while to find the right medication combination. it is very expensive. The cost of the one pill is as much as my mortgage.

I realize that pharmaceutical companies are looking to make money, but I believe that the chemists/scientists that create the meds are truly looking to help people with a better quality of life.

I think drug companies should stop paying for res and free lunches/breakfasts and make the medications more affordable.

I think pharmaceutical companies may push their medications too hard which may mean a patient does not get the best medication for him/her.

I think that TV commercials for prescription drugs should not be allowed.It is important to be informed about medications that are available, but this info should come from a source that presents ALL of the options, not a commercial pushing a patient to request a particular drug. Some people have to get their psych meds from internists who may not be very informed and will give whatever drug a patient requests-leave the ads for breakfast cereal.

I think the pharmaceutical companies often push their own agendas and only provide informaiton that will benefit them, or that they are absolutely required to provide. I alos think they hide information that might be detrimental to their bottom line.

I think they are bad about introducing new medicines just to draw in the big name brand money when a lot of the older generics still have a lot of potencial.

I think they have too much influence with doctors that prescribe them

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

I think they knock themselves out trying to help people. almost all of them will help obtain your medications. there is a wide variety of medications and applications. And mostly, they work very well.

I think they need standardization between generic and non-generic medications so that the good and bad side-effects will be the same. It would be nice to know that when you are forced to change to a generic, it's the same and not have unexpected surprises that can be unpleasant.

I think they push their "remedy" drug to doctors with free samples and gifts. I think the doctors need to take what the pharmaceutical companies say with a grain of salt.

I trust my doctor and other users information when it comes to medication.

I understand (from what my psychiatrist told me) that Eli Lilly received at one point in time 90 percent of its profits from the sale of Prozac.

I understand that it takes a lot of time and money to develop a new medication but there is no question that the pharmaceutical companies also make a lot of money from those same products once they do get to market. I have seen information about the influence that the pharmaceutical companies have on what doctors prescribe often prescribing the newest "wonder" drug.

I understand that there needs to be a profit potential in order to justify the great expense of developing a new drug. It just seems like sometimes the costs of new drugs (psych & otherwise) are exorbitantly priced.

I used to work in a hospital MH setting. Many docs would prescribe meds based on what drug reps were in recently. Pharm companies do wonderful work in R&D but marketing can have an influence on some docs. Other docs (mine) I believe is not as influenced by the latest drug rep.

I was prescribed Resperine for high blood pressure. I went into a severe hospitalization depression on ss/disability for 18 mos. this did not have to be.

I wish less expensive generic options were more quickly available.

I wish the type of people studied would be disclosed as I am a short white caucasian non smoker and have been told that most studies are performed on males, of various ethnicities which is not indicative of its effect or side effects on me

I work at a psychiatric emergency center and am significantly involved in working with thousands of patients about their medication. I do everything I can to help other people access medication and encouraging them to always take it. However, anyone on insurance with a large copay for accessing MD and Rx is out of luck.

I worry about them because they are a business and they have to make money. I worry that maybe they are not focusing on the best interests of the patient but more likely their bottom line.

I would actually say that they produce helpful treatment options and continue to put money into research, but I remain cautious.

If they didn't spend so much on ads, they could charge less for the meds.

In my experience pharmaceutical companies inundate clinicians with samples of their new medications, which has been useful at times since, these samples can be passed onto consumers at no cost. Most people with serious mental illness are unable to work regularly, if at all, all the samples help, if they work. For me, having TRD, older medications are not provided and can be of considerable cost to me. Very frustrating.

In my opinion their only goal is to make as much money as possible whatever the consequences.

It appears their primary goal is profit for themselves and their shareholders.

It cannot be denied that profit is the primary reason pharmaceutical companies exist. Direct-to-consumer advertising should be illegal in this country; that it exists goes to show that pharmaceutical companies are motivated by profit, not by making medications that would best help individual consumers.

It is a business and like any business, they are interested in making money. Pharmaceuticals' primary goal is to make money, not to improve others' health.

It's absurd to think that doctors are really going to be influenced by getting free pens/notepads/geegaws from pharmacy reps. It's unbelievably hypocritical for members of Congress to cluck their tongues and tell doctors what they can or can't receive from drug reps. Yeah, like members of Congress don't go off on junkets, get contributions, etc., from the drug companies! Give me a break!

Its sometimes hard to believe that a medication can be trusted with all of the commercials and advertising out there. It seems that if a medication is actually effective they (The pharmaceutical industry) should not have to work so hard to convince us that it does. There is a difference between making us aware of a new drug... and trying to get everyone on it.

I've worked in the health care field for 17 yrs., including 3 yrs. as a Psychiatric Pharm. Clinical Research Coordinator & on many levels, I've witnessed first-hand how the pharm. industry works. Unfortunately, my experience & knowledge leaves me with many unsatisfactory reviews & comments & a genuine uneasiness with their business conduct, as well as with the FDA.

Just like many other American companies, I believe that they value money more than ethics.

Like any business they are trying to sell their product and you can't hold that against them since it's business, but it stinks that other peoples lives are at times heavily influenced by their procedures in business. Then again they do make great products, once they are available as generics and insurance covers them that is.

Making money is their ONLY goal.

most drugs don't work for me. they help me sleep though.

Most of my perceptions about drug companies has been very positive. I believe that while they do represent the patients best interest, they also are in business to make a profit. This profit can sometimes appear as if they are "pushing pills" where they may or may not actually be motivated by this.

Most of the 'reps' that I have met are pretty nice.

My biggest concern is being sent the right medications.

My current antidepressants are critical for my health, but as for-profit entities pharma is unfortunately beholden to their shareholders rather than patients' well-being and/or safety.

My greater struggle and resentment is that my health insurer's mail pharmacy dictates what doses I can or can not take and/or their challenges of my psychiatrist's orders has created delays with receipt of medication.

My main concern with pharmaceutical companies is how the relationship between the drug reps and the doctors work, and how often doctors are influenced by having meals/other benefits purchased for their office versus the actual scientific pros and cons of treatment. While I'm sure most are affected unconsciously, it does indeed happen more than most realize.

My real feeling is that the pharmaceutical companies are far more concerned about how much money they can make on their meds than they are about seeing that these meds get into the hands of everyone who needs them.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

Only concerned about \$\$\$ and NOT AT ALL with helping people. Annual reports confirm this. They are predators, and continue to abuse a population that is vulnerable & desperate. Their marketing & research is nothing short of criminal.

Over priced and worried about their bottom line.

PhARMA needs to do a big image campaign. The industry ranks close to the tobacco industry in public trust.

Pharmaceutical companies are in it for the money. Anybody who thinks otherwise is a fool. Ofcourse this is true of the entire health care system. It has always been and will always be about money. I just pray that I get fine healthcare and medicine in the process.

pharmaceutical companies have more pull than some doctors would like to admit to. I wish doctors would spend a little more time researching lasting effects of a medication before subscribing it because pharmaceutical companies are pushing their product.

pharmaceutical companies provide medication for fre or a reducee rate so that it is affordable to people.they just have to contact them.help is there people just have to find it and not wait for everything to be brought to them

Pharmaceutical Companies use advertising campaigns (incentives.....) to push GP's to prescribe certain drugs as a first line treatment when they are not necessarily the best drug for the patient. Often resulting in severe negative side-effects, (which they often deny have been caused by the drug.) Only have to look up the drug on the net to see the thousands of law-suits against certain drugs that are handed out to patients like candy.

Pharmaceutical companies, while they produce medications truly needed by people with mental illnesses, are still companies. They do what they do to make money. As such, there are issues that may be important to me as an individual that will not be important to their bottom line. The changes in rules about how pharmaceutical representatives can interact with medical professionals are a step in the right direction. More can be done, though.

Pharmaeutical companies have excellent products, but pull all the strings. They control prices, and as such, control my life. Why can I get drugs from Canada at a much cheaper price? Because they are price-gouging the American public!

side effects can b worrisome. also, they make enormous profits.

So far the wording of your survey is heavily biased in favor of the medical model, e.g., the choice "fairly concerned" isn't a neutral point. Pharmaceutical companies have a right to sell their product, and as such, the term "pill-pusher" sounds judgemental and discourages selecting that item. It is in the interest of the business model that they market their product. I strongly object to drug companies having the right to market to the general public through mass media like advertising on television and in print. I also believe pharmaceutical companies 'buy' their research and researchers.

Some Pharmaceutical Companies have the patient wellbeing, at the top of the list.

Stop with the free lunche or whatever and give the consumer a brak-don'tknow how many times in DBSA groups that they an't afford the medications

The cost of drugs is prohibitive, especially since it takes so long to find one that works. I wish there was a way to be more targeted in trying to find a medication that works

The development of never psychiatric medication is very complex and expensive.

the profit margins are incredible - exceeding 1000% and they are often fined for lack of QA. They also "push" off-label use. More importantly, the side-effects are horriffic and can be more problematic than the mental health issue by itself. Basically, as Dr. Pat Deegan says, they prescribe CNS surpressants. nationally, people lose 25 years of their lives to these drugs. In Virginia, that's 27 years. Hospitals and clinics over medicate to reduce need for the staff to help people recover. Hospitals and clinics overmedicate to say they're doing something for the person, when they should be stabilizing and supporting in recovery to reduce the medications!

The world runs on money. Decisions are made based on money. Pharmaceutical companies are no different. They want to make money. They want you to take their drug not the other company's.

Their money and power corrupts the entire system. How can you beleive doctors/psychiatrists who push the pills that make the most \$ for everyone?

Their primary motivation is making profit, not helping the patients. This can be detrimental because they try to influence the doctors into giving the newest most expensive medications when older and cheaper could be more beneficial.

Their product is based on it's selling power, not efficacy.

Their research produces a drug that will or will not be approved by the FDA. They are doing the best they can. The pills on the market today for the mentally ill are keeping them stabilized if the patient continues to take them. My outlook is much brighter with pyschiatric medications.

These companies play around with drugs hoping for the best but have a lot of negative outcomes. Also, the side effects usually outweigh the point of taking the medications in the first place. I hate taking pills, but I am told that I need them to function normally.

They are a business, and as with most other businesses, they are interested primarily in making profits and will do whatever is necessary to do so and satisfy their shareholders.

They are businesses like any other which ina competitive market need to make a profit. It is about the financials in the end and they are not charities who do charitable things to help people. They happen to make money out of either helping or not helping people and in the end the Money is more important than the people

They are evil and money grubbing, but do make medications I need. I don't believe in the defense that research costs are behind the cost of prescription medications. The reason is that the newest VP just got the city council to agree to allow him to raze that hill that had been protected so he can build his mansion.

They are for-prpofit, not for-patients.

They are in business to make money, like everyone else, so they will utilize their resources to make the most money, however they do so with little regard to the health of some individuals. I'm sure most of the clinical trial information is manipulated to benefit their bottom dollar!

They are more about the money that they are about actual help. Finding a niche and fulfilling a need. The cost of medication does not need to be so expensive. Not when you consider the low cost of generics.

they are more concerned with making \$ than truly helping individuals or finding cures

They are more concerned with making profits than with helping people.

They are not interested in curing illnesses. It would be against their profit motive.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

They are profit driven. They interpret & report statistics that portray their products in the best light. They view us as "consumers" and they want us to continue to "consume". They don't focus on long-term outcomes, especially when the REAL numbers portray the continued usage of psych meds as a significant cause of chronic mental illness.

They are similar to the Tobacco Industry with their practices.

They do educate the doctors, however there has to be some bias on their part. Also the companies do not like to see their products go generic, even though it is cost effective for the patient. In some instances a product is not available because the insurance companies are not convinced the product is worth the cost. So at times they need to educate them instead.

They have an undue influence on prescribing physicians who do not have time to research alternative meds. They often use incentives to pharmacies and doctors who are connected with them for writing a certain number of Rx's.

They helped me get the meds I needed when I couldn't afford them and had no insurance

They keep the Brand name prescriptions as a Brand name in cost way too long. The Generic should help the same as the Brand name. I just started taking the generic for Effexor SR & it is not helping my depression near as much as the Brand name.

They make too much profit - keep the medication at an artificially high price

They seem to concentrate on creating new medicines that they can make the most money off of by getting lots of people on them long term, such as a heart medication or antipsychotic that a person might be put on for the rest of their life. They don't invest nearly enough in some other things...a simple example would be developing new anti-biotics to cure infections that have become resistant to the anti-biotics we have now. Not much money to be made on a pill that solves the problem in a few days! They aren't doing anything to come up with treatments for my niece [name] who had hypoxic damage to her memory centers at birth...I guess there's just not enough kids like her to even be worth the drug companies time. There's lots of drugs coming out purporting to treat memory loss in old age, because that's going to happen to everyone, and there's huge money to make in doling pills out day after day in the nursing home. But it depressingly shortsighted for pharmaceutical companies not to come up with medications for learning disabled children.

They want to keep their medications as a brand name status, however when they go generic patients are more able to afford them, and insurance companies are more willing to pay for them. Therefore the patient can be on a medication that works best for them. Some companies are good about helping patients with the cost.

They will make money however they can. One prominent way is by bringing out "new" and "improved" drugs when a block-buster drug is about to go generic. I also think that paying off generic companies to delay making generic version of their drugs in order to wring as money millions out of the public as they can is heinous.

This comment is actually not regarding pharmaceutical companies, but a clarification on questions 9&10. While I'm somewhat familiar with SSRIs and SNRIs having tried many of them, I am not "knowledgeable" about them. I don't feel at all comfortable explaining drugs based on the way they work, just on whether or not they've helped my depression.

This comment is not regarding pharmaceutical companies. Rather, wording in your survey connotes only medical doctors as choices for prescribers - many advanced practice nurses are primary care providers both in mental health and in general primary care and it seems to reflect a bias on the part of DBSA.

This is a very open ended question. I'm answering this in regard to anti-depressants or anti-anxiety medication, no other medication. Research has shown over the decades that pharmaceutical trials and studies have been skewed and didn't provide substantial proof that these medications actually help patients over a long period of time. In fact, they can cause other health issues and exacerbate their symptoms.

This is truly most evident when visiting almost any psychiatrist's office. The freebies these drug companies hand out are everywhere! It's pretty sickening that they push these drugs so hard, but the only way I really find out about the "real" side-effects is by visiting online discussion threads. Then, reporting my findings to my doctor, I am frowned upon for believing what I read on the internet! It is so frustrating! I'm not reading some made up crap, these are real people's experiences.

TV should not take the place of our doctors.

Unless and until true health care reform takes place, the pharmaceutical companies and insurance industry will continue to be "in bed," if you will, together. This means that none of us can really count on significant changes in real treatment advances. The insurance industry is exempt from racketeering laws and can pretty much do what it wants. Billions of dollars every year are spent to research and develop medications, but lobbyists for these two powerful industries often keep certain drugs from reaching those who most need them.

We know from good peer-reviewed studies that ~70% of patients with mood disorders can benefit from the appropriate use of pharmaceuticals. On that basis, the companies have a legitimate place in the medical supply armamentarium. Unfortunately, the American producers have the highest profit/R&R ratios in the world. Also, the pharmaceutical companies have become scandalous in their inappropriate use of mass-media advertising to influence patients to use 'their' medications when most experienced physicians recognize that most medications fall into 'classes' with nearly identical benefits and potential harms.

When are new drugs with fewer side effects going to be created?

While many medications are of value, pharmaceutical companies often push off-label uses, even when they know of risks but do not disclose them, in the interests of profit. They take advantage of people's desire for help by overselling qualities of their newest, trademark protected drugs, and by using marketing strategies both to produce demand and to mislead providers into prescribing them, even though they might not be the best match for a patient.

While some do and have produced helpful drugs for psychiatric illness I understand that their marketing practices are aggressive which leads me to be somewhat biased and more careful when being prescribed any new medications for any medical condition.

Without their research, we would not have these medications available.

Worst problems: their control of medical research and continuing medical education; their huge influence on advocacy organizations; distortion and concealment of information in all these contexts.

Their decisions about what to manufacture and how to promote it are purely profit driven.

que sirven para algunas cosas y afectan otras

You are missing the option that says they produce helpful treatment options but they still shouldn't be trusted. Their medications are not the problem, but their business practices are deplorable.

Big pharma has actively harmed and lied to many people about long term effects of a multiplicity of drugs, thereby shortening American's lives, in some cases by over 25 years. This murderous practice is unlawful and must stop.

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

Considering pharmaceutical companies are in business to make money, I believe this can take priority over a patients' best interest.

Generic meds most times are not as effective or do not work at all. More than one pharmacist told me that, as well as that generics can differ due to the ammount of active ingrediant and/or that ingrediant can be substituted with something very similar. I have had my physician prescribe the best generic possible. None of them work as well as the brand name in all my experience.

Great profit

I believe in the end their concern is their bottom line. If more people benefit from a drug, theres more opportunity for them to make money.

i believe pharm reps take up too much of a practitioner's time.

I believe that pharmaceutical companies withheld negative information from the FDA in getting their trials passed for medication. There are studies that show that the long term effects of psych meds do not show much better results than therapeutic interventions. In fact, more people recovered before the era of psych meds than do today.

I believe that they don't do enough regarding side effects. I also think they lie and tell the consumers certain side effects dont exist when they know darn good and well they do exist.

I believe the pharmaceutical industry is out for profit-often times not fully proving the safety of the medication; thus causing death or severe illness.The health care is as an industry does not see the whole picture in the care of a person,mind,body,spririt & relationships. Not everything has a chemical fix.

i believe they are profit based and they know ahead of time that a certain percentage of folks will have a bad reaction to the medications they are offering, but they have factored this in with their cost and have the funds to cover the damage. Bottom line-pharmaceutical companies provide helpful medication for some, with profit still being the pharmaceutical companies goal not peoples health.

I don't believe that those selling meds are responsible nor the companies that makes them to control their use. I truly believe the reputation of doctors are the ones at stake. Meds should be studied and perhaps not used for a certain case until a possible time limit of study already and used for say 3-5 generally before they are used. I guess one has to rely upon their psychiatrist and if they don't? They then sure better start looking for another one.

I dont trust that they have my best interest as their first priority and that is very sad. Pharmaceutical companies just as health care in general become Big Business and the needs of the individual are not first priority in too many cases.

I feel that they have to much influence in the medical field and on how our insurance companies pay.

I have a problem with the make money first and deal with the lawsuits later conundrum....the media determining which drugs are marketed to whom and the considerable leeway that physicians have to prescribe these type of medications to vulnerable populations as an alternative course of action to properly principled scientific methodology which requires the informed consent that these individuals are in fact being used as experimental control groups (due to their relative poverty and lack of insurance coverage and dire need for medication)

I have mixed feelings about them. I am very grateful for the medications they prescribe that help people, but they are businesses and they have a for-profit agenda too which is justifiable cause to be cautious about trusting them. And I hear things sometimes about them which lead me to be suspicious.

I know that in some years the pharmaceutical companies have catered to doctors and it becomes excessive and then the regulations are tightened. It comes in cycles. However, I do believe there needs to be some type of collaboration between academia, pharmaceutical industry and government. They all employ scientist who are trying to improve health care. I think there needs to be some type of balance and checks.

I know that medications can help I am here today as living proof. However I don't trust the companies as being in my best intrest. Yes they want to find things that work but more for then money, helping others is just good for pr. I also don't believe that every individual needs to be on meds all the time (it varies person by person). Those of those that can take them when needed and should be able to seek other options to help other than just meds. Going and saying this is how I feel to a doctor can't afford tobe given meds and no other help for free is crazy. My mental place of being makes a huge difference to my life and those I love which ripple out around those in my comunnity. Health shouldn't have a price tag.

I think they should have pharmacists available at their companies to answer questions. an 800# to call.

I used to be very concerned about #22 back when pharmaceutical marketing to physicians was more overt than it is now.

im afraid that shire has brainwashed me- but that's probably not true.

It is never decided whether treatment will be short or long term. The Docs will put you on as many pills as they see fit regardless of how much weight you put on. So, I decided for myself that treatment was over for now.

My son works for a drug company and he always flies business class. Drug companies charge too much for drugs.

Pharma reps often influence doctors to prescribe certain medicines and that, by definition, is not in the best interest of the patient. However, I do feel that this is primarily a failure on the part of the doctor for not being more knowledgable, caring, and considerate of their patients

Pharmaceutical corporations have no interest whatsoever in the actual wellbeing of consumers. It is ALL about business/money. They are a sinister cartel of profiteers.

Pharmaceutical corporations make profit for their stockholders. The health of customers is secondary to the profit motive. Pharmaceutical corporations advertise specific illnesses to increase the profitable sale of their drugs.

The above question, #23, is unfair. There are other perspectives critical of the undue influence of pharmaceutical corporations other than dismissing them as 'pill pushers,' or having an 'anti-drug' position. You're boxing in and pigeon holing those with very reasonable concerns about the power of the pharmaceutical industry. People will tend not to click the 'negative' options above, inflating the 'positive' responses. This is leading me to not respond to other non-optional questions.

The cost of these medications is astronomical. Why does it have to be thAt high?T

The problem with pharmaceutical companies is the same as any large corporations: their public mission is often subverted by the financial interests of their stockholders.

Their main reason for being in the business is to make money, and a lot of it, the fact that people may or may not be helped by their product is a secondary effect for them.

They are in it for profit not for the patients.

They are in it for the money and do not care at all about patients well being.

They are looking to make a profit not help consumers.

they are trying to kill us for profit

24) Please list any additional comments regarding pharmaceutical companies here:

They have too much influence over physicians.

They lie.

They push expensive meds like seraquol when more effective drugs are available like lithium. The only ting that really works for Manic depression

They withhold negitive testing info from dr's and patients alike. Dr's then discrimenate when you say how it is negatively affecting you. They claim it's all in your head. My Dr was very surprised my very improved mental and pysical being after I talked him into stopping the drugs. It was a learning lesson for him. Pharmaceutical companies should have no right to invade a Dr's office with salespeople, they should for those who need a medicine allow Dr's to ask for "samples" and mail them only. No more pharaceutical sponsored conferences, or lunches!

When I was very sick and psychotic, the atypicals had come on the market. They were a horror! I have a history of long periods (6-8 months of psychosis) with then years and years of wellness. This time, the atypicals were out and I was put through them all -- with horrible results, no improvement in health and bad side effects. Finally, they put me on stelazine and I was fine within six months. The old drugs work better!