


Drug prices under Medicare Part D—which the Part D proponents claimed would limit costs because of the magic of the market—have been increasing much faster than inflation and faster than seniors’ incomes. Part D prices for the top 15 drugs prescribed to seniors had a median price increase of 9.2 percent in 2006–2007, the first year of the program. The January 2007 cost of living adjustment for Social Security payments was just 3.3 percent—a third of the increase in the cost of these drugs. The rising costs also mean seniors more quickly reach the Medicare Part D “donut hole,” when they have to pay the full price charged by their prescription drug plan, and have larger expenses when they fall into it. (Families USA, 4/07)

Drug companies also take advantage of U.S. consumers by charging more here than in other countries.

## THE HIGH COST OF DRUGS

### This Side of the Border

IF YOU TAKE	YOU PAY MORE THAN YOU WOULD IN CANADA
Lipitor	96%
Plavix	46%
Prevacid	97%
Zocor	31%
Nexium	55%
Zoloft	52%
Zyprexa	128%
Neurontin	44%
Effexor XR	79%
Advair Diskus	85%



Website of U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan, [www.dorgan.senate.gov/documents/issues/20070307\\_advantageofconsumers.jpg](http://www.dorgan.senate.gov/documents/issues/20070307_advantageofconsumers.jpg), citing U.S. and Canadian websites. All prices are based on 90 doses except for Advair Diskus, which is based on 60 doses.