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Pharma Cost Control; Vaccine Patent Protests

For those countries that have the vaccine, battles continue both in the U.S. and even in [China](#). The health consequences as [in Missouri](#): one worker recalls a conversation with an elderly patient: “He said, ‘I’m embarrassed that I’m here,’ ... He wanted to talk about the vaccine, and in the back of my mind I’m thinking, You have a very high likelihood of not leaving the hospital.” This [web site](#) is tracking legislation as it pertains to employers. The idea of R and D’s working together on vaccine acceptance is [never going to happen](#). I am still a fan of the administration working together with doctor, nurses and other national associations to have a country-wide mobilization of health professionals. With high social credibility, health professionals can effectively communicate scientific as recently demonstrated by an excellent recent issue of the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#). More than [99% of the deaths](#) and [97% of the hospitalizations](#) are among the unvaccinated.

I see the impact with my own patients. I convinced four patients just yesterday (others all vaccinated)! With very rare exceptions I am able to turn the vaccine hesitant into vaccine acceptors. Sadly...“I’m admitting young healthy people to the hospital with very serious COVID infections,” wrote Cobia, a hospitalist at Grandview Medical Center in Birmingham, in an emotional [Facebook post Sunday](#). “One of the last things they do before they’re intubated is beg me for the vaccine. I hold their hand and tell them that I’m sorry, but it’s too late.” For myself, I continue to wear masks everywhere that brings me in close contact, especially indoors, with people I don’t know. I am also in favor of universal free access to vaccines. Unless we do this, we will not end this pandemic. This must apply to all future vaccines for new pandemics that will surely come. That is why I went to NYC last week to demonstrate and civil disobedience (not me -yet) against Pfizer and the German government – both of whom are against the release of the patent. Good media play and there is [good follow-up planned](#) – hope some of you might be interested.

AND is also focused on control of skyrocketing pharma prices. Congress just reported that leading drug companies have [spent more on](#) stock buybacks, dividends to investors, and

executive compensation than on research and development. And then we of course have the Adulhelm story which takes advantage of people's desperation; [likely we will never know if it works](#). While prices go up, every week I know the struggles patients are going through for life-saving medication such as the patient I spent an hour on trying to figure out how to get him insulin. The result is dehumanizing medical debt and bankruptcy. There are [court cases](#) that approve rationing pharmaceuticals for the poor. There is [potential legislation emerging in the next two months](#); [the legislation is not yet clear](#) but even so and we are working to identify members of Congress who are on the fence. I will continue to contact many of you on this critical legislation. Thanks!

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