

Center for Public Health Law & Policy

Table – Litigation Regarding CMS Drug Pricing Negotiation Authority

JAMES G. HODGE, JR., JD, LLM Director

ERICA N. WHITE, JD Research Scholar

MARY SAXON
Senior Legal Researcher

December 21, 2023

The <u>Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022</u>, signed into law on August 16, 2022, contains numerous provisions aiming to lower the cost of select prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries and the federal government. IRA authorizes the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program (DPNP), which requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to negotiate drug prices with manufacturers for certain Medicare Part D drugs over years ahead. On August 29, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced <u>initial drugs</u> chosen for negotiation representing the "top 10" eligible Part D drugs with the highest Medicare expenditures over the prior year. Manufacturers' negotiations with CMS are anticipated to lead to new, posted drug prices by September 1, 2024. Negotiated prices will take effect on January 1, 2026. For more information, see recent commentary published on September 20, 2023 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Prior to CMS' selection, several drug manufacturers (and others) filed lawsuits questioning the constitutionality of IRA provisions. Most of the plaintiffs are drug manufacturers claiming standing to sue based on their drug's status among CMS' initial "top 10" list. Some of the suits were withdrawn after CMS issued its list; others have since been raised. This Table summarizes *ongoing litigation* surrounding CMS DPNP as per the following information in **Columns**:

- I. chronologically lists case names and numbers, hyperlinks to the complaint (where available), and date filed;
- II. identifies the court where the complaint was filed;
- III. provides brief case status updates and filing dates;
- IV. describes factual angles of the suits (drugs selected via CMS' 8/29 DPNP announcement are highlighted); and
- **V.** delineates primary constitutional arguments raised in each case by plaintiffs and defendants.

I. Case & Date	II. Court	III. Status	IV. Factual Angle	V. Constitutional Arguments
Merck v. Becerra et al., No. 1:23-CV- 01615 June 6, 2023	U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia	Defendant's Reply Brief Supporting Motion for Summary Judgment - 11/29/23	Plaintiffs: Allege that CMS DPNP is coercive and does not constitute genuine negotiations. Standing is based on the manufacturing of Januvia, Janumet, and Keytruda. Defendants: Argue that Takings Clause and Compelled Speech arguments fail because participation in Medicare and the DPNP is voluntary, and no physical or regulatory taking has occurred.	Plaintiffs: 1st Amendment - Compelled Speech 5th Amendment - Takings Unconstitutional Conditions Defendants: Standing Ripeness 1st Amendment- Compelled Speech 5th Amendment- Takings Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce et al. v. Becerra et al., No. 3:23-cv- 00156 June 9, 2023	U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio Western Division	Defendant's Motion to Dismiss and Cross- Motion for Summary Judgment - 12/15/23	Plaintiffs: Claim associational standing because the chambers of commerce involve pharmaceutical companies that are subject to IRA provisions. One of the chambers' members manufactures Imbruvica.	Plaintiffs: 1st Amendment - Compelled Speech 5th Amendment - Due Process 8th Amendment - Excessive Fines Separation of Powers - Nondelegation Doctrine Congressional Authority Defendants: Standing; Ripeness
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Becerra et al., No. 3:23-cv- 03335	U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey	Plaintiff's Reply in Support of Motion for Summary	Plaintiffs: Allege that CMS' DPNP results in a scheme where HHS dictates a price that compels drug companies to sell their most lucrative and innovative drugs or face steep	Plaintiffs: 1 st Amendment - Compelled Speech 5 th Amendment - Takings

I. Case & Date	II. Court	III. Status	IV. Factual Angle	V. Constitutional Arguments
June 16, 2023	Trenton Vicinage	Judgment - 11/24/23	penalties. Standing is based on the manufacturing of Opdivo and Eliquis.	Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine
			Defendants: Argue that Takings Clause & Compelled Speech arguments fail because participation in Medicare & DPNP is voluntary as manufacturers can withdraw from negotiations. Argues that plaintiffs have no property interest in Medicare sales to constitute a taking.	Defendants: 1st Amendment – Compelled Speech 5th Amendment- Takings Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine
Nat'l Infusion Ctr. Ass'n et al. v. Becerra et al., No: 23-cv-00707 June 21, 2023	U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas Austin Division	Plaintiff's Motion for leave to file response to Defendants' Notice of Supplement al Authority -11/7/23	Plaintiffs: Allege that DPNP does not involve genuine negotiation and is insulated from accountability through failing to require notice-and-comment rulemaking and limiting the information that may be disclosed regarding negotiations. Standing is based on the following: Infusion Association members, like BioTek, receive reimbursement revenue from drugs and treatments, like Stelara. Global Colon Cancer Association members rely on cancer drugs subject to negotiation. PhRMA members manufacture drugs expected to be selected for negotiation such as Eliquis, Xarelto, Januvia, Jardiance, Imbruvica, Novolog, Xtandi, Enbrel, Myrbetriq, and Spiriva. Defendants: Argue that plaintiffs lack	Plaintiffs: 5th Amendment – Due Process 8th Amendment - Excessive Fines Separation of Powers - Nondelegation Doctrine Defendants: Subject Matter Jurisdiction- Medicare Act Standing Venue Separation of Powers- Nondelegation Doctrine 8th Amendment- Excessive Fines

I. Case & Date	II. Court	III. Status	IV. Factual Angle	V. Constitutional Arguments
			for Stelara which disqualifies the drug from DPNP.	
Janssen Pharmaceuticals v. Becerra et al., No: 23-cv-03818 July 18, 2023	U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey Trenton Vicinage	Plaintiff's Reply in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment - 11/24/23	Plaintiffs: Allege that DPNP is a mandated price control (and not negotiation) that is unconstitutional and a public policy mistake. Standing is based on the manufacturing of Xarelto. Defendants: Argue that Takings Clause and Compelled Speech arguments fail because participation in Medicare and the DPNP is voluntary, and manufacturers have adequate opportunity to withdraw from negotiations. Argues that plaintiffs have no property interest in Medicare sales to constitute a taking.	Plaintiffs: 1st Amendment- Compelled Speech 5th Amendment – Takings Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine Defendants: 1st Amendment – Compelled Speech 5th Amendment- Takings Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. v. U.S. HHS et al., No. 3:23-cv-01103 August 18, 2023	U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut	Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment and Cross- Motion - 12/20/23	Plaintiffs: Allege that DPNP (1) fundamentally alters the U.S. health care market and that manufacturers have no genuine choice in negotiating; and (2) presents a conflict of interest between CMS's dual role as price-setting entity and payor. Standing is based on the manufacturing of Jardiance.	Plaintiffs: 1st Amendment - Compelled Speech 5th Amendment - Due Process & Takings 8th Amendment - Excessive Fines Separation of Powers Unconst. Conditions Doctrine
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals v. Becerra et al., 1:23-cv-00931 August 25, 2023	U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware	Plaintiff's Brief in Opposition to Defendant's Cross- Motion for Summary	Plaintiffs: Allege the IRA undermines the Orphan Drug Act by reducing incentives for development of new drugs and that the definitions of "Qualifying Single Source Drug" and "Bona Fide Marketing" are arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedures Act. Standing is	Plaintiffs: 5th Amendment -Due Process Defendants: Standing Administrative Procedure Act Subject Matter Jurisdiction

I. Case & Date	II. Court	III. Status	IV. Factual Angle	V. Constitutional Arguments
		Judgement	based on the manufacturing of Lynparza,	5 th Amendment- Due Process
		& Reply in	Soliris, Farxiga, and Calquence.	
		Support of		
		Plaintiffs'		
		Motion for		
		Summary		
		Judgment -		
		12/1/23		
<u>Novartis</u>	U.S. District	Plaintiff's	Plaintiffs: Allege that the IRA is a "forced-	Plaintiffs:
Pharmaceuticals	Court for the	Motion for	sales regime" that harms innovation and	1st Amendment – Compelled
Corp. v. Becerra	District of	Summary	deprives manufacturers of market price for	Speech
et al., 2:23-cv-	New Jersey	Judgment -	their "lifechanging" drugs. Standing is based	5th Amendment – Takings
14221		11/22/23	on the manufacturing of Entresto.	8th Amendment – Excessive
				Fines
September 1,				Unconstitutional Conditions
2023				Doctrine
Novo Nordisk	U.S. District	Plaintiff's	Plaintiffs: Allege that CMS extended IRA's	Plaintiffs:
Inc. v. Becerra et	Court for the	Motion for	"already unprecedented price controls"	1st Amendment- Compelled
<u>al.,</u> 3:23-cv-	District of	Summary	beyond Congress' authorization through	Speech
20814	New Jersey	Judgment -	their selection of eligible drug products,	5 th Amendment- Due Process
		12/8/23	negotiation procedures, and implementation	Separation of Powers-
September 29,			of agency guidance. Standing is based on the	Non-Delegation Doctrine
2023			manufacturing of NovoLog products and	Exceeding Congressional
			FIASP products.	Authority- Ultra Vires

Source: Select court documents were accessed through <u>CourtListener</u>.

¹ 42 U.S.C.A. § 1320f.

² CMS, *Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program: Revised Guidance, Implementation of Sections 1191-1198 of the Social Security Act for Initial Price Applicability Year 2026* (June 30, 2023), https://www.cms.gov/files/document/revised-medicare-drug-price-negotiation-program-guidance-june-2023.pdf. ³ 42 U.S.C. §§ 1320f(b), (d), 1320f-2(a), 1320f-3(b).

⁴ Gostin LO, Hodge JG, Twinamatsiko A. Medicare's historic prescription drug price negotiations. JAMA. 2023; (online September 20).