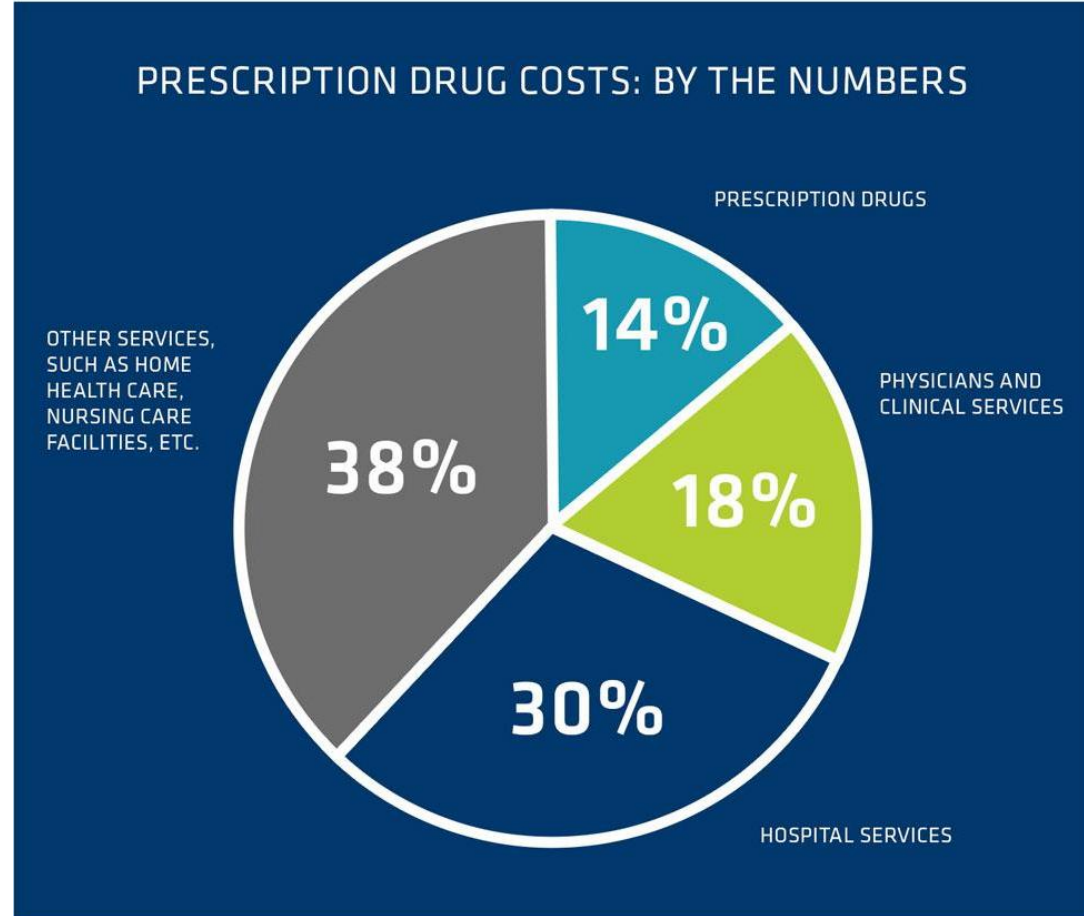


A collage of medical supplies and US currency. The background features several US dollar bills, including a \$50 bill and a \$100 bill. Scattered throughout are various medical items: a blister pack of yellow capsules, a syringe with red liquid, two orange and white capsules, a white pill, and a green and red syringe. The text "Prescription Drug Reform" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Prescription Drug Reform

Overview of Prescription Drug Costs in the US

- 1. Introduction to U.S. Prescription Drug Costs:** Prescription medications in the United States are significantly more expensive than in other countries (Vincent Rajkumar, 2020).
- 2. Highlighting Key Medications:** Zolgensma, Luxturna, Myalept, Actimmune, Daraprim
- 3. Guiding Question:** "Why does the United States have such inflated costs for prescription medication?"



FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT ON HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S., JUST 14¢ IS SPENT ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.



Case Study Comparison: Insulin Prices

- Insulin prices in the U.S. are markedly higher than in countries like Canada and the UK
- The significant price differences in insulin costs are influenced by factors such as U.S. patent laws, healthcare system structure, and the lack of price regulation (Hwang et al., 2022).
- The insulin case study highlights the larger issue of prescription drug pricing in the U.S

Case Study Comparison: Cancer Medications

1. The cost of common cancer medications is significantly higher in the U.S. compared to other developed countries
2. High medication costs lead to decreased accessibility and potential compromises in the quality of patient care (Vincent Rajkumar, 2020).
3. Pharmaceutical pricing strategies, patent protections, and the lack of government price negotiations drive the elevated prices of cancer medications in the U.S..





The Role of Pharmaceutical Companies

1. U.S. pharmaceutical companies significantly influence drug prices through their control over patents and strategic marketing
2. The balance between covering research and development expenses and achieving profit margins often results in higher drug prices (Hwang et al., 2022).
3. These practices affect medication affordability, often making drugs less accessible to patients



Government Policies and Drug Pricing

1. Medicare's limited ability to negotiate drug prices perpetuate high prescription drug costs in the U.S.
2. The current regulatory framework in the U.S., contributes to the elevated cost of medications (Vincent Rajkumar, 2020).
3. These policies and regulatory practices lead to higher healthcare costs for consumers

Impact of High Prescription Costs

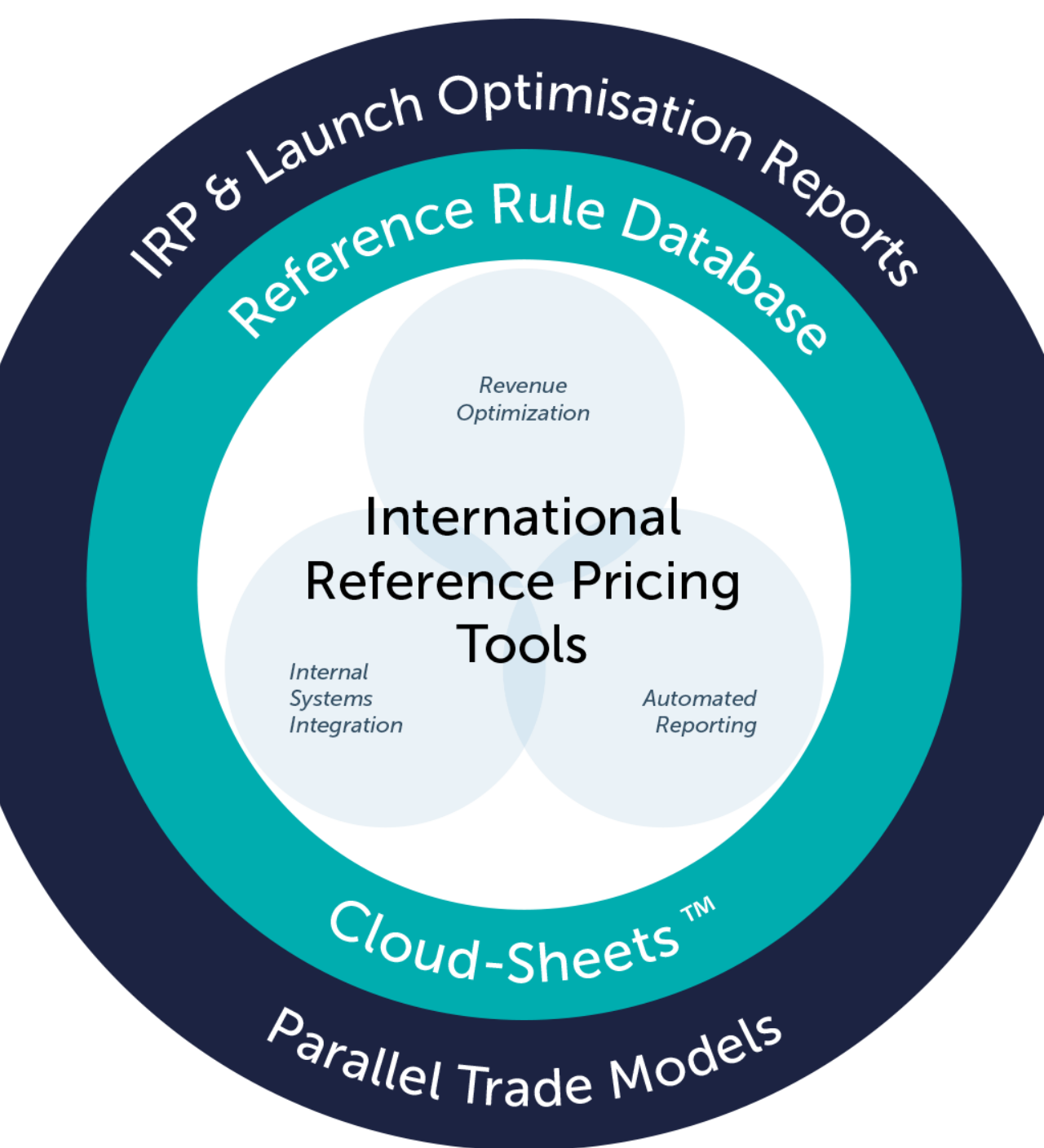
- High drug prices in the U.S. result in widespread social and economic consequences
- Elevated drug costs create significant disparities in medication access (Hwang et al., 2022).
- The high cost of prescriptions directly correlates with poorer health outcomes due to medication non-adherence and added financial stress





Recent Reforms in Prescription Drug Pricing

- Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act, represent significant steps toward lowering prescription drug prices in the U.S.
- Early indications suggesting the potential for substantial cost reductions (Vincent Rajkumar, 2020).
- Numerous challenges persist, necessitating ongoing efforts to reduce drug costs within the U.S. healthcare system.



International Approaches to Drug Pricing

- Countries like Canada, the UK, and Australia effectively manage and negotiate prescription drug prices through government-led regulation and price control mechanisms.
- These international models have successfully kept drug prices relatively lower (Hwang et al., 2022).
- Insights from these countries offer valuable lessons for the U.S to improve its drug pricing policies



Proposed Reforms and Future Directions

- Key policy initiatives being proposed in the U.S. aim to reduce prescription drug prices further
- These reforms seek to balance maintaining pharmaceutical innovation and ensuring drug affordability (Vincent Rajkumar, 2020).
- The envisioned future healthcare system focuses on enhanced drug affordability and accessibility



Conclusion and Reflection

1. Urgency of tackling the issue of inflated drug prices in the U.S
2. Addressing high drug prices is crucial for advancing American healthcare (Hwang et al., 2022).
3. There's a strong need for ongoing dialogue and research to develop and implement effective solutions for prescription drug reform in the U.S.



References

- Hwang, T. J., Kesselheim, A. S., & Rome, B. N. (2022). New reforms to prescription drug pricing in the US: Opportunities and challenges. *JAMA*.
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2795651>
- Vincent Rajkumar, S. (2020). The high cost of prescription drugs: Causes and solutions. *Blood Cancer Journal*, 10(6), 71