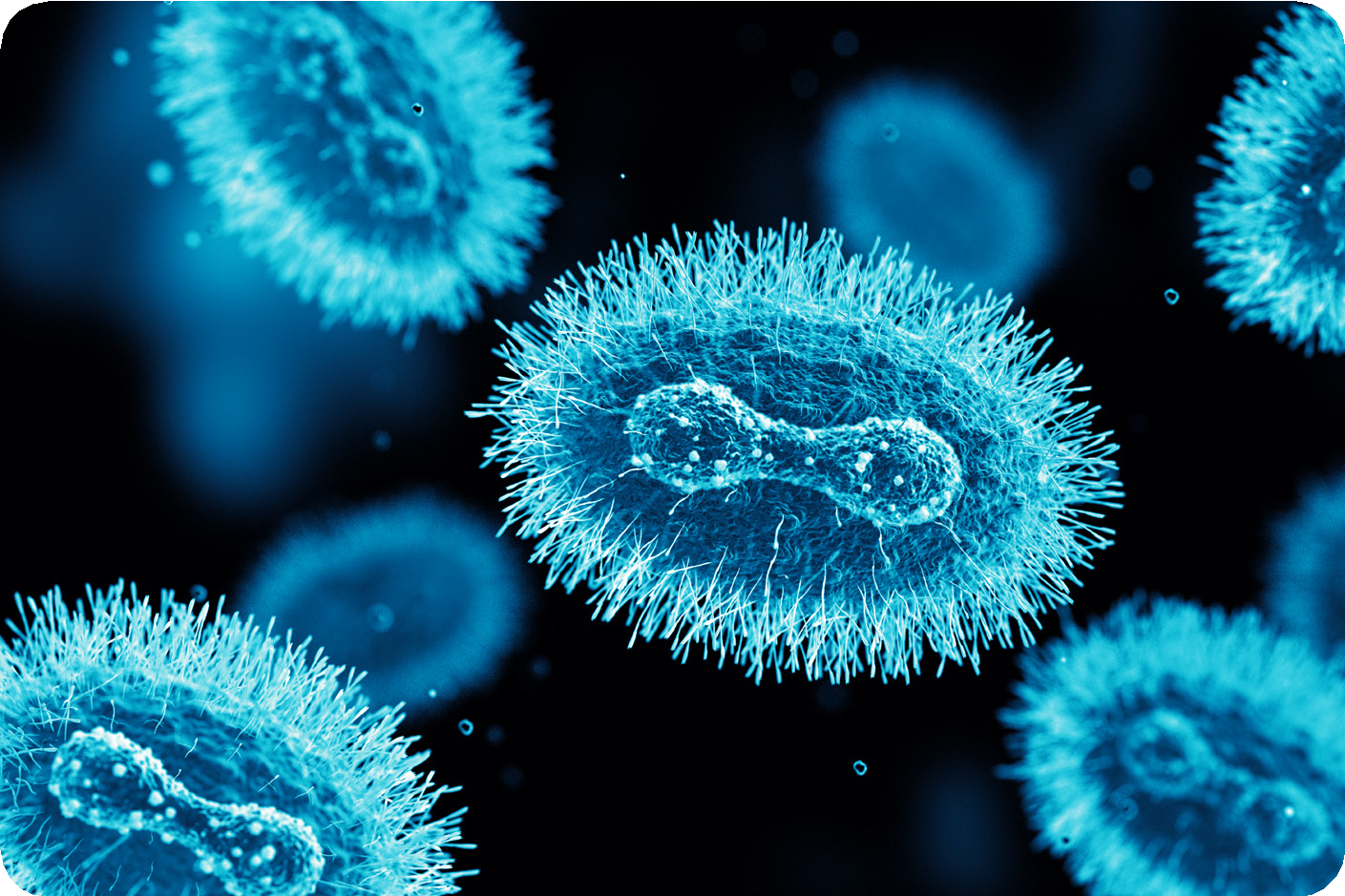
A person holding a tablet

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A person looking at a tablet

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Fourth Quarter 2024

**CAR-T For Lupus: Cell Therapy in Autoimmune Disease**

At least 10 companies have launched trials testing cell therapies for lupus.1These trials are the first step towards using cell-based medicines to treat common, inflammatory conditions. They are in very early stages but an exciting possibility. About [1.5 million people in the U.S. and 5 million worldwide](https://www.lupus.org/resources/lupus-facts-and-statistics) have a form of the disease, according to the Lupus Foundation of America, a patient advocacy group. There is no cure. Available treatments which include anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive therapies, steroids and antimalarials help manage symptoms.

1 S*ource: clinicaltrials.gov, companies*

[**LEARN MORE**](https://www.biopharmadive.com/news/lupus-cell-therapy-car-t-biotech-startups/705767/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202024-12-27%20Top%20BioPharma%20Trends%20%5Bissue:68691%5D&utm_term=BioPharma%20Dive%20-%20All%20Daily%2C%20Weekly%2C%20Weekender%20Subscribers)

**Rising Cost of Commercial Health Care Spending: Prescription Drugs**

Commercial health care spending is estimated to grow 8.0% and 7.5% between 2024 and 2025, its highest level in 13 years. Pharmaceutical companies have invested in therapies for many chronic conditions. While these innovations have delivered improved health and quality of life, they create sustained inflationary pressure on medical cost trend in coming years. New treatments have been approved for obesity, cell and gene therapies for rare diseases, and neurological conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s Disease, and schizophrenia. These drugs, together with their expected high unit cost and/or high utilization rate, are likely to drive up medical costs. The utilization of Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) drugs is on a rising trajectory and can materially impact overall medical costs.

[**LEARN MORE**](https://www.pwc.com/us/en/industries/health-industries/library/assets/pwc-behind-the-numbers-2025.pdf)

DRUG REPORT

Quarterly Pipeline

**As a valued partner of Companion Life Insurance Company,**

**CompanionCARE® strives to keep you up to date on the latest advances in pharmacotherapy.**

**Stay up to date on industry news:**



**Because we CARE:**

**Questions, concerns, feedback?**

Please contact Debbie Hoffer, Assistant Vice President of CompanionCARE at [Debbie.Hoffer@CompanionLife.com](mailto:Debbie.Hoffer@CompanionLife.com) or 260-609-7906.

™ All rights reserved. This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to its sender.