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# Prescription and Private Label Topical Trends in 2018

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Topicals represent 5.1% of total prescriptions and 14% of total drug cost, and are being prescribed as an alternative to some oral medications. Within this class, cost drivers including prescription (Rx) and private label topical analgesics (PLTAs) are associated with limited clinical efficacy and exorbitant pricing that often eliminates them as a favorable first-line therapy option. These and other challenges call for careful oversight that includes identification, clinical review and intervention, and/or recommendation of therapeutic alternatives where appropriate to help control inappropriate utilization and spend. Watch the [video blog](#) to learn more. PLTA-Rx-Topicals-Thumbnail.png



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