

Before the current one, all known outbreaks had caused fewer than 2400 cases, across a dozen African countries over 3 decades. Add the poverty of those countries, and the market for drugs and vaccines looks unpromising.

- **Why is making a new drug for an infectious disease unappealing for drug companies?**

- **What does it mean to have a patent on a drug?**
- **What does it mean to produce a drug off-patent?**

- **Who sets the price for a new drug in the US?**
- **Which factors determine drug pricing?**

- Who foots the bill for drugs in the US?
- How does drug pricing work in other developed nations?

- What are arguments for, & against, high drug prices?
- Are high drug prices justifiable?

Convalescent Plasma Therapy

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Pros:

- Can get it up & running quickly
- Growing pool of survivors
- Exists when no drugs or vaccines

Cons:

- Hard to recruit volunteers
- Need 4 staff people per transfusion
- Cost is \$85
- Harder to mass-produce, administer, dose, measure quality than drugs & vaccines
- Antibody levels can vary widely
- Need to screen blood for pathogens