

1. One reason for rising costs of drug plans

2. The American Fiscal Cliff and what is it?

3. Best of the season

1. Development of new drugs making insurers antsy

Ever wonder about the rising costs of drug Plans. Here's something to ponder. In 2001 there were only 8 drugs on the market that had annual costs in excess of \$10,000. In 2011 that number increased to 76 (25 of which were over \$25,000 and 2 were over \$250,000) - no wonder insurance carriers are getting antsy about the cost to provide drug coverage. (Benecaid Health Solutions)

2. Some people know what they are talking about

Don Coxe, a respected Strategy Advisor for BMO for 36 years, is someone I've been following for years. Historically, he followed commodities but these past few years he was widened scope. Recently he was interviewed by Steve Paikin for The Agenda on TVO and of all the explanations about the American Fiscal Cliff it is the only one that makes some sense. If you follow CNN or CNBC and are totally confused try this for clarification. Don is a Canadian who has lived in Chicago for years giving him a unique perspective. Well worth listening to and helps clear up the muddle the Americans seem to have made of things.

[Don Coxe Fiscal Cliff](#)

After you listen to Don's piece you may figure we're doomed but we've survived far worse in the past. The Mayan calendar forecasts Dec 21st, 2012 as the date the world will end so you may be wasting good quality worrying on the fiscal cliff that may not come to pass!

3. Season's Best and new year's resolution

As the Christmas season is upon us I pass along my best wishes and hopes for a great 2013. Pretty sure the sun will rise Dec 22nd and Jan 1st, 2013 so we'll have to keep saving for retirement.

Cheers.

Earle

PS If you get more email than you can ever read & I'm adding to the glut, drop me a note and I'll remove you from my mailing list.

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