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A reverse payment settlement is an atypical form of settlement agreement, and has received much attention from the legal community in the EU, especially the European Commission. This article strives to first introduce the reader to the world of reverse settlement agreements in the context of the pharmaceutical industry, and will highlight landmark decisions which have formed the approach taken by European courts towards the legality of such types of settlements. The European approach will then be contrasted with the approach taken by the US Supreme Court in various important decisions, which will also be discussed in detail. The economics behind such agreements will also be discussed, to support the authors' overarching support for legalising reverse settlement agreements.

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