

The Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health

Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies, Tufts Medical Center

CEVR Spring Newsletter

May 2010

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. Among the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's pages, are many provisions that will affect the generation and use of evidence in the U.S. health care system. The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the Independent Payment Advisory Board, and initiatives to encourage prevention to name just three, will have important implications. It will be critical to incorporate the measurement of value into these and other efforts. Our Spring Newsletter highlights some of the projects that we have undertaken to further this aim. As always, we welcome your feedback.

Peter J. Neumann, Sc.D.
Director, CEVR

CEVR Research Highlights

Medicare requiring stronger outcomes evidence

Research using our database of Medicare national coverage determinations shows that Medicare is increasingly citing the importance of "relevant outcomes" in decisions for new technologies. [READ MORE](#)

Costs play role in oncologists' treatment recommendations

A large, national survey of U.S. oncologists finds that 84% of oncologists consider their patients' out-of-pocket costs when recommending cancer treatment. However, most oncologists (57%) only occasionally discuss cost issues with their patients. [READ MORE](#)

Low-value services in value-based insurance design

Value-based insurance design programs have focused on waiving co-pays to provide incentives for high value services. VBID programs should also consider "low-value" care. [READ MORE](#)

Cheaper and almost as good: Decrementally cost-effective medical innovation

Cost-saving innovations may improve overall outcomes, even when they are slightly less effective than available options, by permitting more efficient reallocation of resources. We used the Tufts Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) Registry (www.cearegistry.org) to identify and describe cost- and quality-decreasing medical innovations that might offer favorable "decrementally" cost-effective tradeoffs-defined as saving at least \$100 000 per quality-adjusted life-year lost. [READ MORE](#)

Personalized medicine: Factors influencing reimbursement

The strength of evidence for existing personalized medicine (PM) technology varies widely and, along with endorsement of clinical guidelines, appears to be the strongest predictor of reimbursement. To date, the promise and hype of PM has outpaced its evidentiary support. [READ MORE](#)

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) Registry Updates

CEVR is the home of the CEA Registry (www.cearegistry.org).

We have now updated the CEA Registry through the first half of 2009. The full 2009 data will be posted soon.

Welcome New CEVR Staff

Pei-Jung Lin, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor and is currently involved in a number of projects including analyses of health care costs of Alzheimer's disease, factors associated with willingness to pay for cancer treatments and diagnostics, and promotional claims by pharmaceutical companies.

James Chambers, M.Pharm, M.Sc., is a Project Director and leads and works on projects associated with the use of cost-effectiveness evidence in the US health care system. James also helps maintain the Tufts Medical Center Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) Database.

Michael Cangelosi, M.P.H., M.A., is a Research Associate whose work at the Center includes research pertaining to resource reallocation determined by cost-effectiveness research and literature review of the occupational healthcare system. He also serves as a reviewer for the CEA Registry.

Upcoming Presentations

ISPOR, May, 2010

Issues Panels:

- Medicare, health reform and the future of evidence requirements.
- Cost-effectiveness analysis in the southwest quadrant: Adopting medical technology that costs less and does less.

Poster Presentations:

- CMS vs. NICE coverage of technologies: How do they compare?
- What factors predict favorable Medicare coverage?
- When are diagnostic laboratory tests cost-effective? A systematic review of cost-utility analyses.

SMDM Europe, May-June 2010

Poster Presentations:

- Are incremental benefits from new technologies decreasing? An analysis of QALY gains over time.
- Does adjusting for health-related quality of life matter in cost-effectiveness analyses? A comparison of cost/life year and cost/QALY estimates.

HTAi, June 2010

Poster Presentation:

- Is it cost-effective? It depends on whom you ask.

AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, June 2010

Poster Presentations:

- Are quality ratings of Medicare Special Needs Plans evidence of their specialness?
- Early evidence on the quality of care provided by Special Needs Plans.
- Long-term care and Medicare cost of Alzheimer's disease patients.

Summer Course

June 24-25, 2010: 2nd Annual Short Course on Comparative Effectiveness and Cost Effectiveness: Methods and Measurement

Location: Museum of Science, Boston, Mass

Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) presents this acclaimed 2-day course that aims to provide participants with knowledge and hands-on experience in the nuts and bolts of the methods employed in the practices of evidence-based and value-based approaches. It will help you gain a better understanding of how comparative effectiveness research fits into our post health reform era. Participants will learn the methods of comparative effectiveness and cost effectiveness research and their policy implications directly from some of the most prominent leaders in the field. A roll up your sleeves approach will be the focus. Some background in comparative effectiveness and cost effectiveness analysis is preferred, although it is not required. A course brochure including a registration form can be found [here](#).

Direct questions to [Nina Bonnoyer](mailto:Nina.Bonnoyer@tuftsmedicalcenter.org).

Announcing the 2010-2011 Sponsorship Program

We are now in the 3rd year of our Value Databases Sponsorship Initiative.

Our sponsors' support helps to maintain and improve our Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) Registry and Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) Database. Sponsors receive complete access to the CEVR Value Databases, an invitation-only meeting and many other unique benefits. If you would like to learn more about how to become a sponsor, please contact our Research Manager, [Dr. Amy Stern](mailto:Dr.Amy.Stern@tuftsmedicalcenter.org).

Recent Publications

Greenberg D, Earle CC, Fang CH, Eldar-Lissai A, Neumann PJ. When is cancer care cost-effective? A systematic overview of cost-utility studies in oncology. *J Natl Canc Inst* 2010;102(2):82-88. [PubMed](#)

Greenberg D, Rosen AB, Wacht O, Palmer JA, Neumann PJ. A bibliometric review of cost-effectiveness analysis in the economic and medical literature, 1976-2007. *Med Decis Making*. Published online March 2010. [PubMed](#)

Lin PJ, Biddle AK, Ganguly R, Kaufer DI, Maciejewski ML. The concentration and persistence of health care expenditures and prescription drug expenditures in Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease. *Med Care* 2009;47(11):1174-9. [PubMed](#)

Lin PJ, Maciejewski ML, Paul JE, Biddle AK. Risk adjustment for Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. *Am J Managed Care* 2010;16(3):191-198. [PubMed](#)

Meckley LM, Greenberg D, Cohen JT, Neumann PJ. The adoption of cost-effectiveness acceptability curves in cost-utility analyses. *Med Decis Making*. Published online Sept 2009. [PubMed](#)

Meckley LM, Neumann PJ. Personalized medicine: Factors influencing reimbursement. *Health Policy* 2010;94:91-100. [PubMed](#)

Nelson AL, Cohen JT, Greenberg D, Kent DM. Much cheaper, almost as good: Decrementally cost-effective medical innovation. *Annals Int Med* 2009 Nov;151(9):662-667. [PubMed](#)

Neumann PJ, Auerbach HR, Cohen JT, Greenberg D. "Low-value" services in value-based insurance design. *Am J Managed Care* 2010;16(4):280-286. [PubMed](#)

Neumann PJ, Fang CH, Cohen JT. 30 years of pharmaceutical cost-utility analyses: growth, diversity, and methodological improvement. *Pharmacoconomics* 2009;27(10):861-872. [PubMed](#)

Neumann PJ, Tunis SR. Medicare and medical technology – the growing demand for relevant outcomes. *NEJM* 2010;362(5):377-379 [PubMed](#)

Neumann PJ, Palmer JA, Fang CH, Nadler E, Ubel PA. Struggling with expensive new cancer therapies: A national survey of oncologists. *Health Affairs* 2010 Jan;29(1):196-202. [PubMed](#)

CEA Registry Blog

Visit the CEA Registry Blog

We have developed this blog to encourage interactivity among our users by allowing readers to post comments and questions about the Registry. The forum of this blog ranges from posting brief online updates to more in-depth content, enabling our users to be aware of new developments and resources.

Recent blog posts:

- [What does health care reform mean for the use of cost-effectiveness evidence?](#)
- [Medicare uses cost-effectiveness evidence](#)
- [Cost-effectiveness debate features in Newsweek](#)

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Questions about CEVR? E-mail us at cevr@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.
Questions about the CEA Registry? E-mail the Registry team at cea@tuftsmedicalcenter.org.