



Dear Colleagues,

Over the past few months, CEVR has launched a number of new features on our website, www.cearegistry.org, including topical league tables, a section on CEVR news and updates, a CEVR in the news section, weekly updates for our news highlights, as well as the addition of twice weekly blogs. In addition, CEVR is now offering new features to our sponsors, including an advanced search option and an email alert system that allows users to select publication topics to receive by email notification. We also recently hosted our Fourth Annual Data and Value Strategy Meeting for sponsors, which proved to be an immensely successful day.

In addition to these new website features, CEVR members have published over a dozen new papers since our last newsletter this past fall, including papers on the challenges of risk-sharing arrangements, health technology assessment and cancer's exceptionalism, and a statistical model predicting Medicare national coverage decisions (see below for more detail).

Regards,

Peter J. Neumann, Sc.D.
 Director

www.cearegistry.org



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of the papers published since our last newsletter in December. Sponsors can request copies of these publications by contacting Amy Stern at (617) 636-7431 or by email: astern@tuftsmedicalcenter.org

Cangelosi MJ, Bliss SK, Chang H, Dubois RW, Lerner D, Neumann PJ, Westrich K, Cohen JT. Imputing productivity gains from clinical trials. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. In Press.

Chambers JD, Morris S, Neumann PJ, Buxton M. Factors predicting Medicare national coverage: An empirical analysis. *Medical Care*. 2012 Mar;50(3):249-256. [Read more.](#)

Cohen JT, Marino RJ, Sacco P, Terrin N. Association between the

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

COSTS AND BENEFITS OF TARGETED SCREENING FOR CAUSES OF SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.

There has been ongoing debate over whether select groups of children should undergo electrocardiogram screening to identify cardiac defects that can cause sudden cardiac death (SCD). In the May issue of *Circulation*, CEVR's Dr. Josh Cohen co-authored a paper suggesting that screening children for SCD is expensive relative to the potential health benefits.

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FACTORS PREDICTING MEDICARE NATIONAL COVERAGE: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS.

A recent paper in *Medical Care* by James Chambers and colleagues was the first of its kind to quantitatively evaluate factors underlying Medicare decisions on medical technology. The study used seven identified variables to evaluate 195 coverage decisions catalogued in the Tufts Medical Center National Coverage Determinations database from 1999 to 2007.

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Functional Independence Measure following spinal cord injury and long term outcomes. Spinal Cord. In Press. [Read more.](#)

Drummond M, Neumann PJ, Jonsson B, Luce B, Schwartz JS, Siebert U, Sullivan SD. Can we reliably benchmark health technology assessment organizations? International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care. 28:2(2012):159-165. [Read more.](#)

Leslie LK, Cohen JT, Newburger JW, Alexander ME, Wong JB, Sherwin ED, Rodday AM, Parsons SK, Triedman JK. Costs and benefits of targeted screening for causes of sudden cardiac death in children and adolescents. Circulation. Epub May 3, 2012. [Read more.](#)

Neumann PJ, Bliss SK. FDA actions against health economic promotions, 2002-2011. Value in Health. In Press.

Neumann PJ, Bliss SK, Chambers JD. Therapies for advanced cancers pose a special challenge for health technology assessment organizations in many countries. Health Affairs 2012; 31(4):700-708. [Read more.](#)

Neumann PJ. What we talk about when we talk about health care costs. New England Journal of Medicine. 2012 Feb;366(7):585-86. [Read more.](#)

Neumann PJ, Cohen JT, Hammitt JK, Concannon TW, Auerbach HR, Fang CH, Kent DM. Willingness-to-pay for predictive tests with no immediate treatment implications: a survey of US residents. Health Economics 2012. 21:238-251. [Read more.](#)

Rodday AM, Triedman JK, Alexander ME, Cohen JT, Ip S, Newburger JW, Parsons SK, Trikalinos TA, Wong JB, Leslie LK. Electrocardiogram screening for disorders that cause sudden cardiac death in asymptomatic Children: A meta-analysis. Pediatrics. 2012 Apr; 129(4):1-12. [Read more.](#)

Thorat T, Cangelosi M, Neumann PJ. Skills of the trade: The Tufts cost-effectiveness analysis registry. Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis. 2012 Feb;3(1):1-7. [Read more.](#)

Ubel PA, Berry SR, Nadler E, Bell CM, Kozminski MA, Palmer JA, Evans WK, Strev el EL, Neumann PJ. In a survey, marked inconsistency in how oncologists judged value of high-cost cancer drugs in relation to gains in survival. Health Affairs. 2012 Apr;31(4):709-717. [Read more.](#)

RISK-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS THAT LINK PAYMENT FOR DRUGS TO HEALTH OUTCOMES ARE PROVING HARD TO IMPLEMENT.

In the December issue of Health Affairs, CEVR's Peter Neumann and James Chambers along with other colleagues discuss the challenges of implementing risk-sharing agreements, under which payers and pharmaceutical manufacturers agree to link payment for drugs to health outcomes achieved. Although such agreements have been widely touted, the experience to date mainly demonstrates the difficulties of such a payment model.

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THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF BIOPHARMACEUTICALS: A LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE

With the increasing availability and costs of biopharmaceuticals, policymakers are questioning whether these drugs offer good value for the money. In reviewing biopharmaceutical studies in the Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) Registry, Andrew Wilson and Peter Neumann, in a paper in the March/April issue of mAbs, determined that while many individual biopharmaceuticals seem to provide a good value, as a category, their overall value was less favorable than other categories.

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THERAPIES FOR ADVANCED CANCERS POSE A SPECIAL CHALLENGE FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN MANY COUNTRIES.

In the April issue of Health Affairs, CEVR researchers highlight examples of health technology assessment (HTA) organizations and cancer's "exceptionalism." Cancer poses a special challenge for HTAs and their efforts to inform coverage and reimbursement decisions. Some countries have created separate HTA pathways for cancer treatment, while others make exceptions to ease treatment access.

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WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT HEALTH CARE COSTS.

In a perspective published in the New England Journal of Medicine in February, Peter Neumann argued that the debate surrounding new ethics guidelines from the American College of Physicians calling for physicians to practice "parsimonious care" is courageous given the larger struggle in the United States over how to both deal with and talk about health care costs.

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STAFF UPDATES

In January, **Aaron Winn, MPP** joined CEVR as a Research Associate, and **Jinna Halperin, MPH** became CEVR's first Medical Writer/Website Editor. ▶ [Read more about our staff.](#)

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

June 2-6 17th Annual International Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) in Washington DC.

*If you are attending, be sure to attend the panel, podium and poster presentations by CEVR staff members and visit us in the Exhibit Hall at booth T-7.

Monday June 4th

• **Dr. Peter Neumann** is moderating Issue Panel 4 from **10:45-11:45AM**: How will FDA's new draft guidance on unsolicited requests for off-label information affect AMCP dossiers and the

Wilson AW, Neumann PJ. The cost-effectiveness of biopharmaceuticals: A look at the evidence. *mAbs*. Mar;4(2):281-288. [Read more.](#)

Yang Z, Zhang K, Lin PJ, Clevenger CK, Atherly A. A longitudinal analysis of the lifetime cost of dementia. *Health Services Research*. 2011 Dec 15. [Read more.](#)

CEA REGISTRY BLOG

[Visit the CEA Registry Blog](#)

The CEA Registry Blog is a frequently updated resource targeted at the health policy community. Blogs range from brief updates on evolving policies to more in-depth comment pieces.

Recent Blog Posts:

- [The cost-effectiveness of screening children for sudden cardiac death](#)
- [New CEA Registry feature: sample league table from high quality studies](#)
- [Can We Benchmark Health Technology Assessment Organizations?](#)

communication of health economic information?

• **Michael Cangelosi** is giving a podium presentation titled 'A systematic review of costs associated with prescription opioid risks,' from **2:45-3:00PM** as part of the Health Care Risk Management session.

• During Poster Session 2 on Medical Device Diagnostics- Research on Methods from **4:30-8:30 PM**, Benjamin Geisler is presenting on New approaches for graphing probabilistic patient-relevant health outcomes: the case of renal denervation for resistant hypertension, research jointly conducted with Drs. Neumann and Cohen.

Tuesday June 5th

• **Dr. Peter Neumann** is presenting on 'FDA actions against health economic promotions, 2002-2011' from **8:45-9:00AM**, during the Health-Related Productivity session.

• **Dr. James Chambers** is presenting on 'CMS's use of cost-effectiveness evidence in NCDs for prevention' at **9:30-9:45AM** during the Health Care Policies and Expenditures session. From **9:15-9:30AM**, Dr. Andrew Wilson is presenting in the same session on research conducted with Dr. Neumann. His presentation is titled 'Assessing the value of biopharmaceuticals: cost-effective innovations or inefficient use of resources?'

Wednesday June 6th

• **Dr. Peter Neumann** is a discussant for the third plenary session from **11:00-12:15PM** on Performance-Based Risk-Sharing Arrangements: Good Practices for Design, Implementation and Evaluation.

• **Dr. Paige Lin** is giving a poster presentation from 8:30-2:45 during the Sensory Systems Disorders- Cost Studies session on 'Systematic review of cost-utility analyses in age-related macular degeneration.'

• **Teja Thorat** is giving a poster presentation from **8:30-2:45PM** during the Cancer- Clinical Outcomes Studies session on 'Are QALY gains for new pharmaceuticals increasing in cancer but not other diseases?'

June 24-26 AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting in Orlando.

Monday, June 25th

• **Dr. Paige Lin** is giving a panel presentation from **3:00-4:00PM** on 'Alzheimer's disease and potentially avoidable hospitalizations' during a session on Expenditure and Utilization Trends of Complex Patients.

• **Aaron Winn** is presenting on the same panel on 'Changes in Medicare spending with the introduction of the artificial pancreas.'

Tuesday, June 26th

• **Dr. Peter Neumann** is chairing a panel from **9:45-11:45AM** on the Economics of Prevention.

July 10 – CEVR Webinar

Capturing the value of the CEVR databases: The CEA Registry and Medicare NCD Database - Presented by Peter Neumann and James Chambers (*Sponsors only*)

July 14-19: **Dr. Paige Lin** will give podium presentation at the Alzheimer's Associations International Conference in Vancouver.

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Our Fourth Annual Data and Value Strategy Meeting proved to be an exciting event that included representatives from 21 of our current sponsors. CEVR currently has 26 sponsors, 13 at both the Platinum and Gold levels. Depending on the sponsorship level, sponsors receive a select number of invitations to this sponsor-only event and to the welcome reception. In addition to a number of excellent presentations from both CEVR staff and colleagues, CEVR decided

to break the mold this year by taking a group walk after lunch. Our annual meeting offered attendees a wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves in CEVR's research and to learn about our unique databases. Both the meeting and reception also provided sponsors an opportunity to come together for an exclusive gathering and networking forum.

For more information about our sponsorship program or an updated list of sponsor benefits, visit our [Premium Access page](#). For information on becoming a sponsor, contact Amy Stern at astern@tuftsmedicalcenter.org or at (617) 636-7431.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

CEVR SEEKING POST DOC FELLOW

Candidate should have recently completed or expect to soon complete doctorate studies with a strong research record in health policy, health economics, decision science, or related field. Experience in statistics or simulation modeling is desirable. This two-year funded position includes approximately 6 months at Bayer Healthcare.

▶ [CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



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Questions about CEVR? Email us at cevr@tuftsmedicalcenter.org

Questions about CEA Registry? Email the Registry team at cea@tuftsmedicalcenter.org

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