HEOR NEWS

1 What Is the Status of Research on Low-Value Care? (Health Affairs)

Elizabeth L. Cope and Paul Armstrong summarize what is happening in research on low-value care, looking at what has been investigated by The Research Community on Low-Value Care. The community is a joint initiative of AcademyHealth, the ABIM Foundation, and the Donaghue Foundation. The summary includes who among publicly and privately funded groups is leading low-value care research; the aims of low-value care research; and the health conditions of interest in low-value care research.

https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20200106.99070/full/

2 ICER Posts Draft Scoping Document for the Assessment of Treatments for Beta Thalassemia (ICER)

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) in January posted a draft-scoping document outlining a planned review of the comparative clinical effectiveness and value treatments for LentiGlobin (Bluebird Bio) and luspatercept-aamt (Reblozyl, Acceleron Pharma Inc and Bristol-Myers Squibb/Celgene) for the treatment of beta thalassemia. Following the public comment period, a revised scoping document will be posted on or about February 4, 2020.

https://icer-review.org/announcements/icer-posts-draft-scoping-document-for-the-assessment-of-treatments-for-beta-thalassemia/

3 The Most Valuable Pipeline Drugs for 2020

(Managed Healthcare Executive)

Some of the drugs named in this report include: (1) Eli Lilly's Reyvow (lasmiditan) for acute treatment of migraine with or without aura; (2) Novartis' Adakveo (crizanlizumab-tmca) for sickle cell pain; (3) Merck's Ervebo, the first FDA-approved vaccine for the prevention of Ebola virus disease.; and (4) Alnylam Pharmaceuticals' Givlaari (givosiran) for acute hepatic porphyria.

https://www.managedhealthcareexecutive.com/news/most-valuable-pipeline-drugs-2020

4 The 4 Biggest Pharma Market Access Stories of 2019

(Pharmaphorum)

Articles on (1) biosimilars, (2) the resolution of the conflict between National Health Service and Vertex on Orkambi (lumacaftor/ivacaftor) pricing and access, (3) the ongoing US debate about drug and healthcare pricing, and (4) executive shakeups for the FDA and NICE were identified as the 4 top stories in 2019 in the market access field.

https://pharmaphorum.com/views-analysis-market-access/the-4-biggest-pharma-market-access-stories-of-2019/

5 Should Access to Life-Saving Medicines Be Determined by Economic Evaluations? (The Hill)

Gunnar Esiason, who has been living with cystic fibrosis since he was diagnosed at the age of 2, writes about his experiences with the disease and how Vertex's drug Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor and ivacaftor) saved his life when he was in the end stages of cystic fibrosis. Son of Boomer Esiason, who started the Boomer Esiason Foundation to advocate for the cystic fibrosis community, Gunnar asks whether the QALY should be used for patients like himself to limit their access to innovative drugs such as Trikafta, calling the economic model "discriminatory."

https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/477547-should-access-to-life-saving-medicines-be-determined-by-economic#.Xhd8lzMRROU.twitter

6 Trends in List Prices, Net Prices, and Discounts for Originator Biologics Facing Biosimilar Competition

(JAMA Network Open)

In 4 case studies, the authors of this paper observed that the net prices of originator biologics decreased following the entry of biosimilars or other substitutes. While the decreasing net prices of infliximab and filgrastim had been previously described, this study is the first to examine pegfilgrastim and insulin glargine and the contribution of non-Medicaid discounts toward lowering net prices.

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2757480

7 Shaping the Patient-Centric Evolution of HTA in Europe

(Pharmaphorum)

Patient engagement is one of the most important drivers for improving healthcare delivery but, as Krystallia Pantiri explains, approaches by European health technology assessment (HTA) bodies vary.

https://deep-dive.pharmaphorum.com/magazine/patient-engagement/shaping-the-patient-centric-evolution-of-hta-in-europe-pharmerit/

8 Google Cloud and FDA MyStudies: Harnessing Real-World Data for Medical Research (Google Cloud)

According to Jameson Rogers, PhD, product manager, Google Cloud Healthcare & Life Sciences, by making FDA's open-source MyStudies platform available on Google Cloud Platform, the company hopes to "stimulate an open ecosystem that will improve the ability of organizations to perform research that leads to better patient outcomes." Google Cloud is working to expand FDA's MyStudies platform with built-in security and configurable privacy controls, and the ability for research organizations to automatically detect and protect personally identifying information.

https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/healthcare-life-sciences/fda-mystudies-comes-to-google-cloud

9 Health Technology Assessment: Europe Cannot Afford an Inefficient System (The Parliament Magazine)

UCB CEO Jean-Christophe Tellier looks at the Commission Proposal for a European Regulation, saying that a European-wide system needs to fully integrate with national processes, rather than adding a supplementary hurdle that would effectively mean delays for patients. But Teller is concerned that European Union Member States will opt for a compromise that will inevitably lead to an inefficient system of joint clinical assessments used in HTA processes.

https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/articles/partner_article/efpia/health-technology-assessment-europe-cannot-afford-inefficient-system?utm_campaign=Industry+news+&utm_content=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

10 Do Market Access Withdrawals Impact Patient Access to Treatment in Germany? (PRMA Consulting)

PRMA Consulting did a study of negotiations between manufacturers and the GKV-Spitzenverband to understand the number and timing of drug withdrawals and their impact on supply to patients. While the study shows that several pathways exist for continuing supply to German patients, treatment disruptions due to delayed price agreements or re-introductions are still likely.

https://www.prmaconsulting.com/market-access-publications/Market-withdrawals.pdf

11 Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Utility Analysis of a Work-Place Smoking Cessation Intervention With and Without Financial Incentives (Society for the Study of Addiction)

An economic evaluation conducted at 61 companies in The Netherlands examined a work-place smoking cessation group training program with incentives compared with a training program without incentives. In their analysis, the authors concluded that while financial incentives added to a smoking cessation program does increase initial costs, the increase in the number of quitters could improve the cost-effectiveness in the future through better employee health, making financial incentives a short-term investment that pays off.

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/add.14861

12 IVI's Updated Rheumatoid Arthritis model Examines New Treatment Options, Treatment Effects and Cost Estimates (Innovation and Value Initiative)

Innovation Value Initiative (IVI) released its updated rheumatoid arthritis model in January, which now incorporates additional treatment options (triple therapy, Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitors, sarilumab, and biosimilars), updated treatment effect estimates based on additional randomized controlled trial evidence, and updated cost estimates. The model is also designed to answer a variety of critical questions for patients, payers, and providers if given real-world patient data as input. The organization is seeking data partners.

https://www.thevalueinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-01-07.IVI-RA-model-update-press-release_FINAL.pdf