

## HEOR NEWS



## 7 Combating Cancer With “Cost-Effective” Strategies

(CEVR)

Xue Feng, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow, blogs at the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health about the increasing burden of the cost of cancer treatment in lower-middle income countries (LMIC). Despite this burden, only 3.4% of published cost/disability-adjusted life year (DALY)-averted studies address this topic.

<https://cevr.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/news/2019/combating-cancer-with-cost-effective-strategies>

## 8 Reevaluating Pneumococcal Vaccine Guidance: An Analysis

(ScienceDaily)

A University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine analysis says to mitigate race disparities among those who contract pneumococcal diseases such as pneumonia and meningitis, an effective guidance could be to recommend that all adults get a pneumococcal vaccine at age 50. But unless lowering the age for universal vaccination produces double-digit increases in vaccination rates or the vaccine protects against more types of pneumonia than it has been proven to, researchers conclude that it isn't going to be cost-effective to change the current recommendation.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190304100002.htm>

## 9 Vertex CEO Hints at “New Ideas” to Bring Orkambi to UK Patients

(pharmaphorum)

The cystic fibrosis (CF) drug, Orkambi (lumacaftor/ivacaftor), may become available to all patients throughout the United Kingdom as Vertex CEO Jeffrey Leiden is offering several ideas to UK negotiators to break the more than three-year deadlock over the drug's pricing. Orkambi has been available in Scotland, but not in England. Leiden said he could not accept the NHS' offer for Orkambi and other CF drugs because it would affect the revenues the company needs to continue with its research into CF and other rare diseases.

<https://pharmaphorum.com/news/vertex-ceo-hints-at-new-ideas-to-bring-orkambi-to-uk-patients/>

## 10 KFF Health Tracking Poll - February 2019: Prescription Drugs

(Kaiser Family Foundation)

In its recent poll, Kaiser Family Foundation has found that while many of those surveyed (80%) blame the pharmaceutical industry for high drug prices, 63% also blame pharmaceutical benefit managers. And while 59% say the drugs developed in the last 20 years have generally improved the lives of people in the United States, 79% say the cost of drugs is “unreasonable.”

<https://www.kff.org/health-reform/poll-finding/kff-health-tracking-poll-february-2019-prescription-drugs/>

## 11 Value of Medicines 2019 Special Feature: The Unanswered Question of Value

(PharmaLive)

With Congressional hearings on drug prices, proposed rules for Medicare plans, and new ICER efforts to link outcomes to value, finding answers on how to price and pay for drugs is still difficult.

<https://www.pharmalive.com/value-of-medicines-special-feature-the-unanswered-question-of-value/>

## 12 The Administration's Drug Rebate Proposal: An Opportunity to Put Patients First

(Morning Consult)

A. Mark Fendrick and Dan Klein express support of the Trump administration's drug rebate proposal, but add “like most things in health care, there is more complexity to the administration's proposed changes to pharmaceutical company rebates than initially meets the eye.”

<https://morningconsult.com/opinions/administrations-drug-rebate-proposal-opportunity-put-patients-first/>