

HEOR NEWS



A diverse collection of news briefs from the global HEOR community.

1 Administering Specialty Drugs Outside Hospitals Can Improve Care and Reduce Costs by \$4 Billion Each Year

(United Health Group)

A brief issued by United Health Group says administering specialty drugs in physicians' offices and patients' homes instead of hospitals "reduces the cost of the drugs and their administration by \$16,000 to \$37,000 per privately insured patient per year for 5 conditions that account for over 75% of spending on administered drugs." The conditions examined are multiple sclerosis, immune deficiency, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and cancer chemotherapy.

<https://tinyurl.com/yj815zt>

2 Sharing Anonymized Patient-Level Data Where There Is a Mixed Public and Private Benefit: A New Report

(NHS Health Research Authority)

Research from the Health Research Authority and the University of Sheffield shows that patients aren't always against their data being used by commercial organizations, if they can be shown how that data can be used to develop healthcare products and services.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5vxa26f>

3 Google, Mayo Clinic Strike Sweeping Partnership on Patient Data

(STAT)

Mayo Clinic announced in September that it has struck a sweeping partnership with Google to store patient data in the cloud and build products using artificial intelligence and other technologies to improve care.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6bnzn5f>

4 A Scoping Review on the Roles and Tasks of Peer Reviewers in the Manuscript Review Process in Biomedical Journals

(*BMC Medicine*)

Although peer reviewers are important to the manuscript review process, their roles and tasks are poorly defined, and a scoping review suggests that not overburdening these key people could result in better peer review.

<https://tinyurl.com/y69p7wmx>

5 Closing Gaps in Real-World Evidence Through Data Linkage

Kevin Haynes, principal scientist at HealthCore-NERI, spoke with HealthEconomics.com to discuss about how the fragmentation of patient care in the US healthcare system leads to fragmented data, and how to close gaps in real-world evidence through data linkage.

<https://tinyurl.com/y2k5qezg>

6 Pelosi's Drug Pricing Plan Is More Aggressive Than Expected

(STAT)

STAT reports that Nancy Pelosi's drug pricing plan is "dramatically" more aggressive than expected, after viewing copies of the plan shared by lobbyists. Among other things, the plan allows the federal government to negotiate the price of 250 medicines and forces drug makers to offer those prices commercially.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4hllray>

7 Cigna Rolls Out New Plan to Fully Cover Multimillion-Dollar Gene Therapies

(Reuters)

In September, Cigna introduced a plan that the insurer claims will fully cover expensive gene therapies and eliminate any out-of-pocket payments for customers. The first 2 approved gene therapies, Luxturna and Zolgensma, are included in the plan.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6drcc5q>

8 ICER to Assess Treatments for Cystic Fibrosis

(ICER)

ICER will assess the comparative clinical effectiveness and value of therapies for cystic fibrosis. The report will focus on Vertex Pharmaceuticals' elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor, which has a PDUFA date of March 19, 2020. ICER also will examine any new data that have become available since its May 2018 review of 3 other cystic fibrosis treatments already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration: Vertex's Symdeko, Orkambi, and Kalydeco.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4j9cd84>

9 Novo Nordisk Offers Programs to Lower Insulin Costs as Pressure Over Pricing Mounts

(Pharmalot)

Novo Nordisk announced in September 2 programs that are designed to mitigate rising costs for patients. The effort involves a \$99 cash card that can be used by anyone—regardless of whether they have insurance coverage—for a month's supply and the introduction of authorized generic versions of 2 different insulin products at half the list price.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6ts5anw>

10 Will Gavin Newsom's Plan Lower Prescription Drug Costs in California?

(San Francisco Chronicle)

On August 22, the Department of Healthcare Services, which administers California's Medi-Cal program, began to solicit proposals from companies to help the state administer its pharmacy benefits. The transition is expected to be completed by 2021.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3c92344>