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## **News from EBRI:**

### **Paul Fronstin Appointed to Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Determination of Essential Health Benefits**

WASHINGTON—Paul Fronstin, Ph.D., senior health researcher at the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), has been appointed to the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) Committee on Determination of Essential Health Benefits. This is Fronstin’s second appointment to an IOM project, as he previously served on the IOM’s Subcommittee on the Status of the Uninsured in 2001.

The IOM is an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers and the public. Established in 1970, the IOM is the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

At EBRI, Fronstin serves as director of the Institute’s Health Research and Education Program and oversees EBRI’s Center for Research on Health Benefits Innovation. He has published extensively on health coverage and the uninsured, consumer-driven health care, and health care in retirement. He has been with EBRI since 1993.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), enacted earlier this year, will allow businesses and consumers to purchase health insurance directly through exchanges—competitive market places where buyers can compare coverage offered through qualified health plans (QHPs). The IOM committee Fronstin serves on will make recommendations on the criteria and methods for determining and updating the essential health benefits for QHPs based on the criteria established by the new legislation. The committee will assess the methods used by insurers currently to determine medical necessity and will provide guidance by ensuring appropriate balance among the categories of care covered by the essential health benefits, accounting for the health care needs of diverse segments of the population, and preventing discrimination against age, disability, or expected length of life.

“Paul Fronstin’s extensive experience in health care issues makes him a tremendous asset to this IOM committee,” said Dallas Salisbury, president of EBRI. “As individuals and companies look to purchase health care services through qualified health plans, they can be assured that thorough research has been done.”

Fronstin currently serves on the steering committee for the Emeriti Retirement Health Program. He is an associate editor of *Benefits Quarterly* and a TIAA-CREF Fellow. In 2002, he served on the Maryland State Planning Grant Health Care Coverage Workgroup.

EBRI is a private, nonprofit research institute based in Washington, DC, that focuses on health, savings, retirement, and economic security issues. EBRI does not lobby and does not take policy positions.

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