

Will Wider Use Of Evidence-Based Medicine Significantly Enhance Health Care Quality And Affordability? Implications for Consumer-Driven Health Benefits

*An EBRI-ERF Policy Forum
May 8, 2003
Arnold and Porter Conference Center
Washington, DC
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

This policy forum will examine how the wider use of evidence-based medicine (EBM) can enhance quality and affordability of health care services. The *theme* is to investigate various implications of using evidence-based medicine (combining rigorous evidence with clinical experience to differentiate care that can be justified from care that cannot) with regard to costs and quality. The *goal* is to engage the policy forum participants in a discussion of ways to demystify evidence-based medicine (what it is and is not); to discuss evidence that it has a positive effect on costs and quality; and to discuss what people in the benefits community can do to promote more positive effects.

Moderators:

- Ray Wertz, Consumer Health Education Council and Employee Benefit Research Institute
- Paul Fronstin, Employee Benefit Research Institute

I. Welcome and Meeting Overview

Speakers:

- Dallas Salisbury, Employee Benefit Research Institute
- Ray Wertz, Consumer Health Education Council and Employee Benefit Research Institute

II. Definition of Evidence-Based Medicine and Connection with Cost and Quality

This panel will discuss the evidence that quality, EBM and costs are related and the likelihood that the acceleration of EBM into the processes of care delivery and the diagnostic and care decisions made by and for patients will dampen cost inflation over time.

Speakers:

- Bruce Taylor, Verizon Communications
- Richard Mathis, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
- Paul Wallace, Care Management Institute, Kaiser Permanente

III. Reality checks

The panel will consider the application of population-based data to individuals; new evidence that stimulates demand for expensive services by consumers; physician and other provider resistance to change; who decides whether to follow the evidence and who pays for it; the *lack* of evidence in many areas; and health literacy.

Speakers:

- Jeff Lerner, ECRI
- Jessie Gruman, Center for the Advancement of Health
- Steven Sheingold, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Thomas Wood, Milliman Care Guidelines

IV. Current sources of evidence

This panel will consider the current sources of evidence for clinicians, plan sponsors and consumers and how “user friendly” are they? Are there differences in these sources important to potential users?

Speakers:

- Carolyn Clancy, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Dennis Richling, Midwest Business Group on Health
- Mark Helfand, Oregon Evidence-Based Practice Center

V. Importance of consumers to evidence-based decision making

This panel will consider how important consumers are to evidence-based decision-making; the role they will play; the evidence as to their importance and the extent of demand for the evidence; and the critical components of enhancing their engagement in evidence based decisions.

Speakers:

- Marge Ginsburg, Sacramento Healthcare Decisions
- Lois Vitt, Institute for Socio-Financial Studies
- Susan Prows, Foundation for Accountability (FAACT)

VI. Summary of themes and next steps

This summary will discuss the promise of research synthesis to make clinical and coverage decision-making more effective and efficient. It will also address how to engage employers and experts in the process for dissemination and use of evidence-based medicine.

Speaker:

- Dan Fox, Milbank Memorial Fund