Forum Session

Beyond Survey Data: Prescription Drugs, Medicare, and Managed Care

Friday, March 10, 2000
11:30 am to noon - Buffet Luncheon
Noon to 2:00 pm - Discussion
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Congressional B

A discussion featuring

Earl P. Steinberg, M.D., M.P.P.
Independent Consultant
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Registration: Please call Dagny Wolf at 202/872-1392 as soon as possible.
Beyond Survey Data

On March 6, 2000, Health Affairs will publish a thematic issue dedicated to prescription drugs, Medicare and managed care. This Forum session will highlight a specific article from the issue, entitled “Beyond Survey Data: A Claims-Based Analysis of Drug Use and Spending by the Elderly.”

The analysis reported in the article, written by Earl P. Steinberg, Benjamin Gutierrez, Aiman Momani, Joseph A. Boscarino, Patricia Neuman, and Patricia Deverka, differs from earlier work on this topic in several significant ways. First, whereas previous analyses of prescription drug use and spending by the elderly have been based on survey data—such as the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, or MCBS—this piece is based on an analysis of actual prescription claims. This claims-based analysis is taken from the database of a large pharmacy benefit manager and summarizes the experiences of 345,000 elderly persons.

Second, the most recent MCBS survey data are from 1996, while this analysis, which includes only elderly individuals who have employer-sponsored prescription drug coverage, is based on prescription drug utilization in 1998. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the authors examine the prescription drug use and spending among elderly persons with any of ten common chronic conditions.

Earl Steinberg, the lead author, stated: “I believe our findings have policy relevance in that they provide an idea of the implications of alternative Medicare prescription benefit designs.” Steinberg will open the session with an overview of the article and wrap up with a discussion of specific results and policy implications of the findings. He will also review the methods used in the analysis.

Earl P. Steinberg, M.D., M.P.P., is currently an independent consultant. Until February 2000, he served as vice president of Covance Health Economics and Outcomes Services, Inc., director of its Quality Assessment and Improvement Systems Division, and co-director of its Outcomes Studies Group. Steinberg also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, with a joint faculty appointment in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He has served for ten years as a member of the National Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association’s Medical Advisory Panel and was for four years on the federal Physician Payment Review Commission (now MedPAC). Steinberg received his A.B. degree from Harvard College, his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and a master’s degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He performed his residency in internal medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

1. Copies of the entire issue or reprints of the article will be available on March 6. To obtain a copy, call Judie Tucker at Health Affairs, (301) 656-7401, ext. 200. Copies will also be available at the Forum session.