



Forum Session Meeting Announcement

Wednesday, December 17, 2008
8:45–9:15am — Breakfast
9:15–11:00am — Session

Exploring Comparative Effectiveness: Options for Expanding U.S. Capacity

A Discussion Featuring:

Gail Wilensky, PhD

Senior Fellow

Center for Health Affairs at Project HOPE

Robert S. Galvin, MD

*Executive Director of Health Operations and Chief Medical Officer
General Electric*

Maria Carolina Hinestrosa

*Executive Vice President for Programs and Planning
National Breast Cancer Coalition*

Steven M. Teutsch, MD

Executive Director

U.S. Outcomes Research
Merck & Co., Inc.

Daniel M. Fox, PhD

President Emeritus

Milbank Memorial Fund

Location

**Reserve Officers Association
of the United States**

One Constitution Avenue, NE
Congressional Hall of Honor
Fifth Floor

*(Across from the Dirksen Senate
Office Building)*

Registration Required

Space is limited. Please respond
as soon as possible.

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Exploring Comparative Effectiveness: Options for Expanding U.S. Capacity

Virtually everyone from the patient to the clinician to public and private payers and insurers is clamoring for more and better evidence about what works to promote health. Yet, even among like-minded proponents of an expanded capacity for comparative effectiveness, there are many different ideas about what form such an endeavor should take. The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, a recent Institute of Medicine committee, and draft legislation all have recommended alternative approaches. Proposals range from significantly expanding existing programs at the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality to creating a substantial new public-private entity. Myriad questions are under discussion about the appropriate scope, mandate, focus, structure, location, funding, staffing, etc.

This session is the culmination of a series and will focus on comparing and contrasting existing proposals that relate to expanding U.S. capacity for developing comparative effectiveness information. The preceding four sessions—which focused on the fundamentals of evidence-based health, the Cochrane Collaboration, the capacity of selected federal agencies to advance evidence-based health, and controversies in cost-effectiveness analysis—were intended to lay the foundation for this discussion.¹ Throughout, a variety of questions and tensions were raised. It is clear that the stakes are high, affecting choices in personal health, health care, public health, and both state and federal health policy.

The speakers for this session have extensive experience in the development and application of evidence to health decisions and represent a wide range of perspectives from both the public and private sectors. In discussing the various options for expanding the nation's capacity for generating more and better health information, they will address the following questions:

- What is the best way to expand capacity? Expand existing federal programs such as those in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs, develop a new entity, or some combination? Which approaches would promote better coordination among the various efforts at the state, national, and international levels?
- What should be the scope of the expanded capacity? Should it be relatively focused, for example, on issues important for containing Medicare spending, or more broadly concerned with the evidence base needed to answer a wider range of health questions? How should priorities for the work be set?

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- What is the appropriate mandate for this activity? To generate evidence? To make recommendations? To determine coverage and reimbursement? All of the above?
- How might the program be structured and where should it be located to best capitalize on existing efforts and resources, to maximize coordination, and to ensure its integrity? In the public sector, private sector, or as a public-private entity?
- How might the program be funded? How can adequate and stable resources be secured? How should challenges such as an adequate workforce be addressed?
- How can the values proposed for the program—such as objectivity, scientific rigor, and transparency—be ensured? How can public trust in the program be maximized? How can the program be sheltered from political winds?

SPEAKERS

Gail Wilensky, PhD, is senior fellow in the Center for Health Affairs at Project HOPE. In the 1990s, she served as administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, deputy assistant for policy development to President Bush, chair of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, and chair of the Physician Payment Review Commission. Since 2000, she has chaired or served on numerous state, national, and international commissions, most recently as co-chair of the Department of Defense Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. She will begin the session with an overview of the existing proposals for expanding the nation's capacity for comparative effectiveness.

Dr. Wilensky will be followed by four additional panelists, who will each share their perspectives on the form that an expanded comparative effectiveness capacity might take. **Robert S. Galvin, MD**, is executive director of health operations and chief medical officer at General Electric where he has responsibility for managing the company's health care spending, overseeing its clinical group, which encompasses 175 clinics in 30 countries, and leading its health policy. He also serves as professor adjunct of medicine and health policy at Yale and is co-founder of the Leapfrog Group and founder of Bridges to Excellence and the Center for Payment Reform. **Maria Carolina Hinestrosa** is the executive vice president for programs and planning at the National Breast Cancer Coalition. Before moving to the Washington area in 1993, she worked as a business economist in Colombia and New Zealand. Ms. Hinestrosa led the formation of Nueva Vida, a comprehensive support network for Latinas with breast and cervical cancer in the Washington metropolitan area, and she has also played a leading role in the development of the International Latina Breast Cancer Advocacy Network. She has served on numerous national committees. **Steven M. Teutsch, MD**, is the executive director

of U.S. Outcomes Research at Merck & Co., Inc., where he is responsible for scientific leadership in developing evidence-based clinical management programs, conducting outcomes research studies, and improving outcomes measurement to enhance quality of care. Prior to joining Merck he had a long career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including serving as director of the Division of Prevention Research and Analytic Methods. He has chaired and served on numerous panels and commissions and authored many books and articles in a range of fields in epidemiology. **Daniel M. Fox, PhD**, is president emeritus of the Milbank Memorial Fund, where he served as president from 1990 to 2007. Before joining the Fund he served in state government (Massachusetts and New York), as an advisor to and staff member of three federal agencies, and as a faculty member and administrator at Harvard University and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He has authored numerous books and articles in journals of health services and policy, social science, law, and history.

In addition to these speakers, several panelists from the earlier sessions in the series will be in the audience to participate in the discussion.

ENDNOTE

1. For a description of the preceding sessions, see the entry for the October 30, 2008 meeting on the Forum's Web site, available at www.nhpf.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Details&key=725.



The National Health Policy Forum is a nonpartisan research and public policy organization at The George Washington University. All of its publications since 1998 are available online at www.nhpf.org.