



Balancing Access, Affordability and Innovation: Pharmaceutical Benefit Management Under Medicare Part D

July 13, 2006

8.00 Continental Breakfast

8.45: Issue Overview Stuart Altman, Professor, Brandeis University

9.00: Demonstrating the value of pharmaceuticals under Medicare Part D
Tony Zook, President and CEO, AstraZeneca LP, U.S.

What are the challenges in producing the evidence sought by FDA, payers, physicians and patients? How can we get better evidence and at whose expense? When evidence is incomplete, how are coverage and access decisions made? How might innovation be affected if evidence standards for coverage are uncertain? Could there be new models of evidence for drug development, approval and coverage?

10.00: Break

10.15: Designing an evidence-based pharmaceutical benefit management strategy
Robert Seidman, Chief Pharmacy Officer, Wellpoint Inc.

What are the considerations for pharmaceutical benefit management when trying to develop an optimal balance of affordability and access? What tools are available to manage costs and improve quality? How do Medicare guidelines affect the flexibility to use these tools? How do plans use clinical evidence to make coverage and formulary placement decisions? How do they balance clinical effectiveness, price, and other factors in formulary decisions? What options are available when clinical evidence is insufficient?

11.15: Break

11.30: What does the research tell us about designing an affordable pharmaceutical benefit that will promote appropriate utilization among the elderly?
Stephen Soumerai, Professor, Harvard Medical School

What does the research tell us about establishing clinically sound pharmaceutical benefit management techniques? Under what circumstances are narrow formularies likely to be appropriate? When might very tight formularies endanger patients' access to appropriate medications? What types of cost sharing mechanisms are more likely to promote appropriate utilization? What kind of "safety valves" will help seniors get non-covered medications? What are priority areas for future research under Medicare Part D?

12.30: Adjourn (Lunch will be served)

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