

HEOR NEWS



A diverse collection of news briefs from the global HEOR community.

1 New Study Finds 45,000 Deaths Annually In the United States Linked to Lack of Health Coverage *(Harvard Gazette)*

According to a study in the *American Journal of Public Health*, 45,000 deaths a year can be attributed to lack of health coverage, with uninsured, working Americans facing a 40% higher death risk than their privately insured counterparts. Previous estimates from the Institutes of Medicine (IOM) and others had put that figure near 18,000.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3kmh26j>

2 Cost-Effectiveness of Multigene Panel Sequencing for Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer

(JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics)

The results of the first economic modeling study to estimate the cost-effectiveness of multigene panel sequencing (MGPS) as compared to standard-of-care, single-gene tests for patients with advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (aNSCLC) show that the MGPS tests are moderately cost-effective but could deliver more value if patients with test results identifying actionable genetic mutations consistently received genetically guided treatments. The study was commissioned by the Personalized Medicine Coalition (PMC).

<https://tinyurl.com/y2sgjuwq>

3 The Values in Value Frameworks *(Med Ad News)*

Pharma companies may not like their products being the subject of Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) reports, but they can provide a jumping-off point for manufacturers to expand the conversation of the value of new medicines in the rare-disease area. Even as manufacturers hotly dispute ICER's findings, and private payers have different budgeting goals that ICER's methods do not consider, experts believe that manufacturers are going to have to better address the questions the organization raises.

<https://tinyurl.com/yylp72v2>

4 Out-of-Pocket Costs Rising Even as Patients Transition to Lower-Cost Settings of Care *(TransUnion Healthcare)*

A new TransUnion Healthcare analysis found that most patients likely felt a bigger pinch to their wallets as out-of-pocket costs across all settings of care increased in 2018. The analysis reveals that patients experienced annual increases of up to 12% in their out-of-pocket responsibilities for inpatient, outpatient, and emergency department care in 2018, paying on average between \$500-\$1000 in out-of-pocket costs during healthcare visits.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6qc3uft>

5 Can ICER Bring Cost-Effectiveness to Drug Prices? *(Managed Care magazine)*

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER), a small band of economists and health services researchers in Boston, is emerging as the nation's go-to source for cost-effectiveness calculations and as a voice of reason on what the price of a drug should be, not simply what the market will bear. Health insurers are paying attention, and drug manufacturers are afraid to look away.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3d9e9dc>

6 Anticholinergic Drug Exposure and the Risk of Dementia *(JAMA)*

In this nested case-control study of 58,769 patients with a diagnosis of dementia and 225,574 matched controls, the authors of the study say there were statistically significant associations of dementia risk with exposure to anticholinergic antidepressants, antiparkinson drugs, antipsychotic drugs, bladder antimuscarinics, and antiepileptic drugs after adjusting for confounding variables. "The associations observed for specific types of anticholinergic medication suggest that these drugs should be prescribed with caution in middle-aged and older adults," the experts conclude.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3vz4z69>

7 The High Price of Hospital Care *(Center for American Progress)*

Across America's acute care hospitals, total revenues exceeded expenses by more than \$64 billion in 2016, according to an analysis by the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank. The analysis says experiences among individual hospitals vary, however, and about one-quarter of both for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals lost money in 2016.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5lzh74>

8 Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Multigene Expression Profiling Assays to Guide Adjuvant Therapy Decisions in Women with Invasive Early Stage Breast Cancer

(The Pharmacogenomics Journal)

A study that looked at gene expression profiling testing to aid in chemotherapy decision-making —when traditional clinicopathological predictors are insufficient to accurately determine recurrence risk in women with axillary lymph node-negative, hormone receptor-positive, and human epidermal growth factor-receptor 2-negative early stage breast cancer— found that using any of the 3 recurrence score assays available on the market "is likely clinically and economically attractive." The total expected value of perfect information about GEP assays' utility was \$10.4 million/year.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3jnpcqd>