

PRESENTERS

The Horizon Scanning System: Assessing the Impacts of Emerging Health Innovations

MODERATOR



Eugene Rich, Mathematica Policy Research

Eugene Rich, M.D., director of Mathematica's Center on Health Care Effectiveness, is an expert on the causes of practice variation in medical care and, in particular, on how the policy, payment, and practice environment affects the decisions made by health care professionals. He has been a frequent consultant to federal agencies, foundations, and managed care organizations. Since joining Mathematica in 2010, Dr. Rich has directed a number of projects, including an evaluation for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation that focused on the government's \$1.1 billion investment in CER under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality he directed the evaluation of the Healthcare Horizon Scanning System. Among his current work is leading a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project on Measuring Advancement toward Improving Value in Health Care. Dr. Rich holds an M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

PRESENTERS



Elise Berliner, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Elise Berliner, Ph.D., is the director of the Technology Assessment Program at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). This program provides technology assessments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to inform its decisions about Medicare coverage and other policy issues. Before joining AHRQ, Dr. Berliner worked as a consultant to pharmaceutical and medical device companies, advising them on cost-effectiveness and outcomes research, technology assessment, and reimbursement planning. She also has several years of experience in research and development at a number of innovative medical technology companies, and she was a Congressional Fellow at the Office of Technology Assessment. Dr. Berliner received her Ph.D. in biophysics from Brandeis University.



Nancy Duda, Mathematica Policy Research

Nancy Duda, Ph.D., is a senior survey researcher at Mathematica. Her primary interests include comparative effectiveness, primary care, and health care for the elderly. She co-directs the Evaluation of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System, and she is the survey director for CMS's evaluation of the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative. Dr. Duda has led surveys of the elderly to support evaluations of government and community programs that provide medical and social services to older populations. She has also contributed to the testing of clinician quality measures. Dr. Duda has a Ph.D. in communications studies from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in economics from Barnard College, Columbia University.



Karen Schoelles, ECRI Institute

Karen Schoelles, M.D., S.M., F.A.C.P., is a director of an evidence-based practice center (EPC) who joined ECRI Institute in July 2005. She is responsible for ECRI Institute's EPC projects and its consulting services related to health technology assessment. Dr. Schoelles served as project director for the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System from 2010 through 2015. She has over 20 years of clinical experience in internal medicine, with particular expertise in geriatrics. She has held professional and clinical positions at numerous hospitals and health care organizations in the Boston area, beginning with an internship in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and a residency at North Shore Medical Center in Salem, Massachusetts. For seven years, she was the associate director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program and subsequently entered private practice as a solo practitioner, caring for over 1,400 Medicare patients in their homes, in the office, in an acute care hospital, and in long-term care facilities. Dr. Schoelles later joined Harvard Community Health Plan as an internist at the Wellesley Center, serving as an attending physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and later helping to form the Extended Care Facilities Program for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates. While pursuing an M.S. in health policy at Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Schoelles led systematic review projects at MetaWorks, Inc., in Medford, Massachusetts.

DISCUSSANTS



Joe Cummings, Vizient, Inc.

Joe Cummings, Ph.D., leads the Technology Assessment Program at Vizient, Inc. The mission of this program is to help Vizient members stay at the forefront of technology assessment, acquisition, management, and rational clinical use of medical technology. In this role, he has authored or been the principal investigator on hundreds of evidence-based technology assessments, reports, guidelines, and evaluations of various medical devices and procedures. He also provides ad hoc expertise on technology forecasting, horizon scanning, and identification of innovative technologies to assist hospitals with strategic planning decisions. Vizient, the largest member-owned health care company in the country, serves members by providing group purchasing, data-driven products, expertise, and collaborative opportunities that lead to improved patient outcomes and lower costs. Vizient's diverse membership includes academic medical centers (AMCs), pediatric hospitals, community hospitals, integrated health delivery networks, and nonacute health care providers. He has been with UHC/Vizient in the Technology Assessment Program for more than 21 years. He has degrees in biomedical engineering from the University of Iowa (B.S.) and Northwestern University (M.S., Ph.D.).



Donald Liss, Independence Blue Cross

Donald Liss, M.D., serves as vice president for clinical programs and policy at Independence Blue Cross (IBC), the largest health insurer and managed care organization in the Philadelphia region. In this role, Dr. Liss is responsible for establishing and operating the programs that drive improvements in care for people with chronic conditions, enhancing health-promoting activities, and aligning coverage and payment policies to improve the delivery of health care for more than three million people enrolled in IBC plans. Before his leadership position at IBC, Dr. Liss served as regional medical director for the northeast region at Aetna, where he was responsible for plan activities related to the delivery of clinical care for Aetna's plans in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, and New England. Dr. Liss serves as a director of the HealthWell Foundation, a public charity providing assistance to people unable to afford life-sustaining medications. He is also on ECRI Institute's Health Technology Assessment Information Service Advisory Board, on the Physician Recognition Review Oversight and Patient-Centered Medical Home Advisory Committees at the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and in the Technology Assessment Group of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. Dr. Liss is a graduate of Lehigh University and Drexel University College of Medicine. He completed residency training in internal medicine and served as chief medical resident at Temple University Hospital and as a Clinician Educator Fellow in General Internal Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Kara Odom Walker, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Kara Odom Walker, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.H.S., is the deputy chief science officer in the Office of the Chief Science Officer at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). As part of PCORI's leadership team, Dr. Walker has extensive responsibility for overseeing PCORI's long-term \$2.5 billion research investments, working on operational efficiencies for the science department, managing external relationships with stakeholders and board members, and managing the front office of the Chief Science Officer. A family physician with health services and community-based participatory research training, Dr. Walker previously was assistant clinical professor in family and community medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she created measurement instruments to better understand integrated care in health systems for diverse populations. An honors graduate of the University of Delaware's chemical engineering program, Dr. Walker received her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and holds a Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she conducted research on the impact of hospital closure on underserved, minority populations.

