Specialty Drugs Conference brings together policymakers, industry, consumers

Policymakers, thought leaders, industry experts, and consumer advocates filled the Newseum for a policy forum on access and affordability of specialty drugs produced by the Schaeffer Center and The Hill last week. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) opened the event and encouraged a sophisticated conversation beyond price.

Highlights

Foster Better Pharmaceutical Policy and Global Regulation

In addition to the forum, Darius Lakdawalla pointed to evidence showing price controls on drugs end up costing patients their health in an editorial for the New York Times’ Room for Debate.

Dana Goldman co-authored a Health Affairs study which finds treating 5% of all hepatitis C patients with the latest drugs would be more effective at reducing infections and health care costs than the current approach.

Furthermore, Lakdawalla and Goldman wrote a Health Affairs Blog post that challenges the conventional price-per-dose payment model.

Increase Value In Healthcare Delivery

In This Issue

Highlights
Upcoming Events
Blog Articles
Publications
Experts in the News
Stay Connected
Facebook
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Upcoming Events

20th Annual Wall Street Comes to Washington

Tuesday | 11-17-2015
9:00 AM- Noon ET
Pew Charitable Trusts
Washington, DC

Seminar Series:
Tuesdays | 2:00-3:30 PM
Dana Goldman encourages health care stakeholders to take the long-view in the Harvard Business Review. "We tend to exaggerate the importance of immediate costs and take myopic views of benefits," he writes in the article. He goes on to offer insight into a better way to define "paying for value" in healthcare.

Improve the Performance of Healthcare Markets

Paul Ginsburg provided expertise on insurance mergers when he testified before a Senate panel earlier this month focused on insurance consolidation and its impact on consumers.

Glenn Melnick and Erin Trish authored studies that were cited in multiple testimonials at the hearing.

Improve Health Outcomes for an Aging Society

The gap in life expectancy between the highest and lowest income earners is increasing, which has ramifications for public programs according to a report ordered by Congress and published by the National Academies of Sciences. The report was co-authored by Dana Goldman and relied on the Future Elderly Model.

Blog: The Evidence Base

- A New Line of Specialty Drugs: PCSK9 Inhibitors by Stephanie Hedt
- What's a Fair Price? The Debate over Value & Cost of Specialty Drugs by Stephanie Hedt
- Long Term Educational Consequences of Alternative Conditional Cash Transfer Designs: Experimental Evidence from Colombia by Juan Saavedra

New Schaeffer Publications

- Paul Ginsburg in New England Journal of Medicine Perspective: Challenges for Medicare at 50
- Amitabh Chandra and Dana Goldman in Harvard Business Review: Understanding Health Care's Short-Termism Problem
- Dana Goldman and Darius Lakdawalla in Health Affairs Blog: Moving Beyond Price-Per-Dose In The Pharmaceutical Industry
Schaeffer Experts in the News

- **Paul Ginsburg** in *Bloomberg Business*: For Health Insurance Startup Oscar, Cute Ads Only Go So Far
- **Paul Ginsburg** in *San Antonio Express*: Humana’s decision to drop Baylor doctors stuns patients, hospital, experts
- **Paul Ginsburg** in *LA Times*: Health insurance CEOs vow mergers won’t make marketplace less competitive
- **Paul Ginsburg** in *Modern Healthcare*: Senators grill CEOs of Aetna, Anthem over competitive effects of deals
- **Paul Ginsburg** in *Quad-City Times*: Expert: For-profit may have place in town
- **Joel Hay** on BYU Radio's *Top of Mind with Julie Rose*: Drug Prices
- **Joel Hay** in *LA Times*: Doctor’s attempt to bring lower-price diabetes drug to market thwarted
- **Darius Lakdawalla** on *AJMCtv*: Cost and Value of Breakthrough Therapies
- **Darius Lakdawalla** in *New York Times’ Room for Debate*: Drug Price Controls End Up Costing Patients Their Health

About the Schaeffer Center
The mission of the **Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics** at the **University of Southern California** is to measurably improve value in health through evidence based policy solutions, research excellence, transformative education, and private and public sector engagement. The Center is a unique collaboration between the **USC Sol Price School of Public Policy** and the **USC School of Pharmacy**.

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