

PATIENT-CENTERED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EVALUATING HEALTH CARE SPENDING

To address rising U.S. health care spending, we must first determine the drivers behind this spending and the value it brings to patients and society. This requires well-designed, rigorous research that uses transparent, evidence-based, and consistently applied methods.

The National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) created this set of principles for designing and evaluating health care spending research to ensure appropriate methodological rigor and alignment with patient-centered care. These principles serve as a checklist to assess whether methods for estimating health care spending follow recommendations from professional associations and other authoritative sources.

Health care spending research should:



Consider the impacts of changes in health spending on patients and society



Incorporate estimates of the actual amounts paid for medical care



Recognize differences in spending across patients and time



Account for changes in disease- or condition-specific epidemiologic measures



Adjust for inflation



Use data relevant to the analysis objectives



Include a sensitivity analysis to elucidate any uncertainty in the evaluation



Place conclusions and policy recommendations in the appropriate context

These principles are part of NPC's broader Health Care Spending Guiding Principles, established to assess health care spending estimates and policies to ensure alignment with the goals of patient-centered care as defined by the Institute of Medicine. NPC developed these principles in a multiple-step process using established standards.

To see supporting details for each principle as well as illustrative examples of how to use them, read NPC's full *Health Care Spending Guiding Principles* at www.npcnow.org/hcsgp.

PATIENT-CENTERED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR REFORMING HEALTH CARE TO ADDRESS RISING HEALTH CARE SPENDING

Policies to curb rising U.S. health care spending must be grounded in rigorous research. They should aim to control costs and promote high-value care without unintended consequences that could negatively affect patient health.

The National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) created this set of principles to guide and evaluate policy reforms designed to control rising U.S. health care spending. These principles can be used to evaluate legislative, regulatory, and payer policies to reform health spending by determining their alignment with patient-centered care and their likely impacts on short-term and long-term patient health.

Policies to address rising health care spending should:



Align with the Triple Aim framework of health care improvement



Be rooted in patient-centered value



Recognize the differing needs of a diverse U.S. population



Preserve or improve short- and long-term patient-centered outcomes



Address the burden associated with financing care



Target significant sources of inefficient spending across health care settings, services, and conditions



Discourage the use of low-value care and encourage the use of high-value care



Address factors driving overall health care demand, including behavioral, cultural, and socioeconomic factors



Address misaligned incentives that distort utilization and price



Incentivize innovations that improve patient-centered outcomes

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