



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CENTER FOR VALUE-BASED INSURANCE DESIGN  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Value-Based Insurance Design:

Aligning Patient and Provider Incentives to Increase Use of High value Care, Enhance Equity, and Eliminate Low Value Services

A. Mark Fendrick, MD

University of Michigan Center for  
Value-Based Insurance Design

[www.vbidcenter.org](http://www.vbidcenter.org)



@um\_vbid





**I PUBLISHED  
BUT STILL PERISHED**

# Health Care Costs Are a Top Issue For Purchasers and Policymakers: Solutions must protect consumers, reward providers and preserve innovation

- Innovations to prevent and treat disease have led to impressive reductions in morbidity and mortality
- Irrespective of remarkable clinical advances, cutting health care spending is the main focus of reform discussions
- Underutilization of high-value care persists across the entire spectrum of clinical care leading to poor health outcomes

Volume 12, Issue 1 January 1996, pp. 1-8

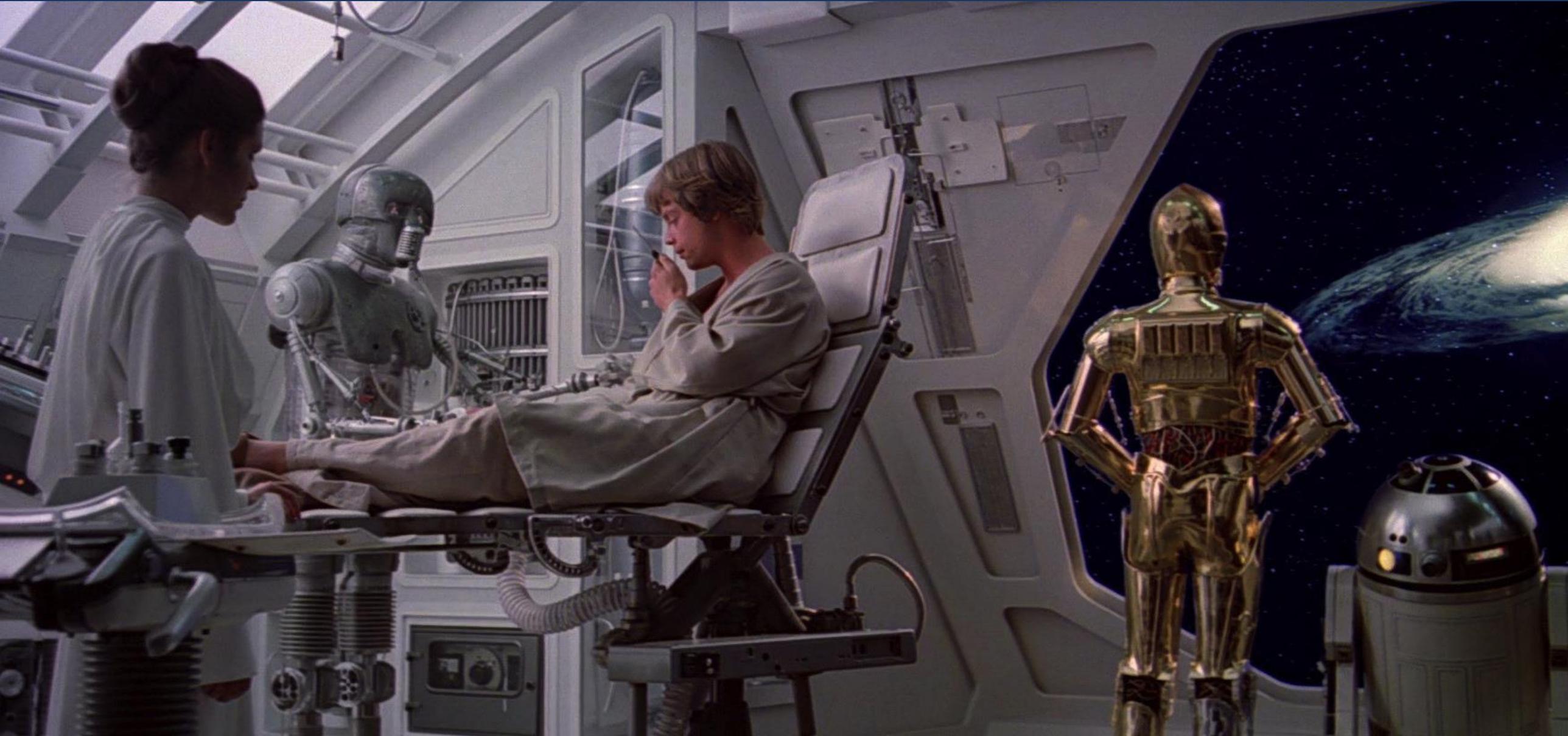
## The Tension Between Cost Containment and the Underutilization of Effective Health Services

[Bernard S. Bloom](#) <sup>(a1)</sup> and [A. Mark Fendrick](#) <sup>(a2)</sup> 

# Health Care Costs Are a Top Issue For Purchasers and Policymakers: Solutions must protect consumers, reward providers and preserve innovation

- Innovations to prevent and treat disease have led to impressive reductions in morbidity and mortality
- Irrespective of remarkable clinical advances, cutting health care spending is the main focus of reform discussions
- Underutilization of high-value care persists across the entire spectrum of clinical care leading to poor health outcomes
- Our ability to deliver high-quality health care lags behind the rapid pace of scientific innovation

# Star Wars Science



# Flintstones Delivery



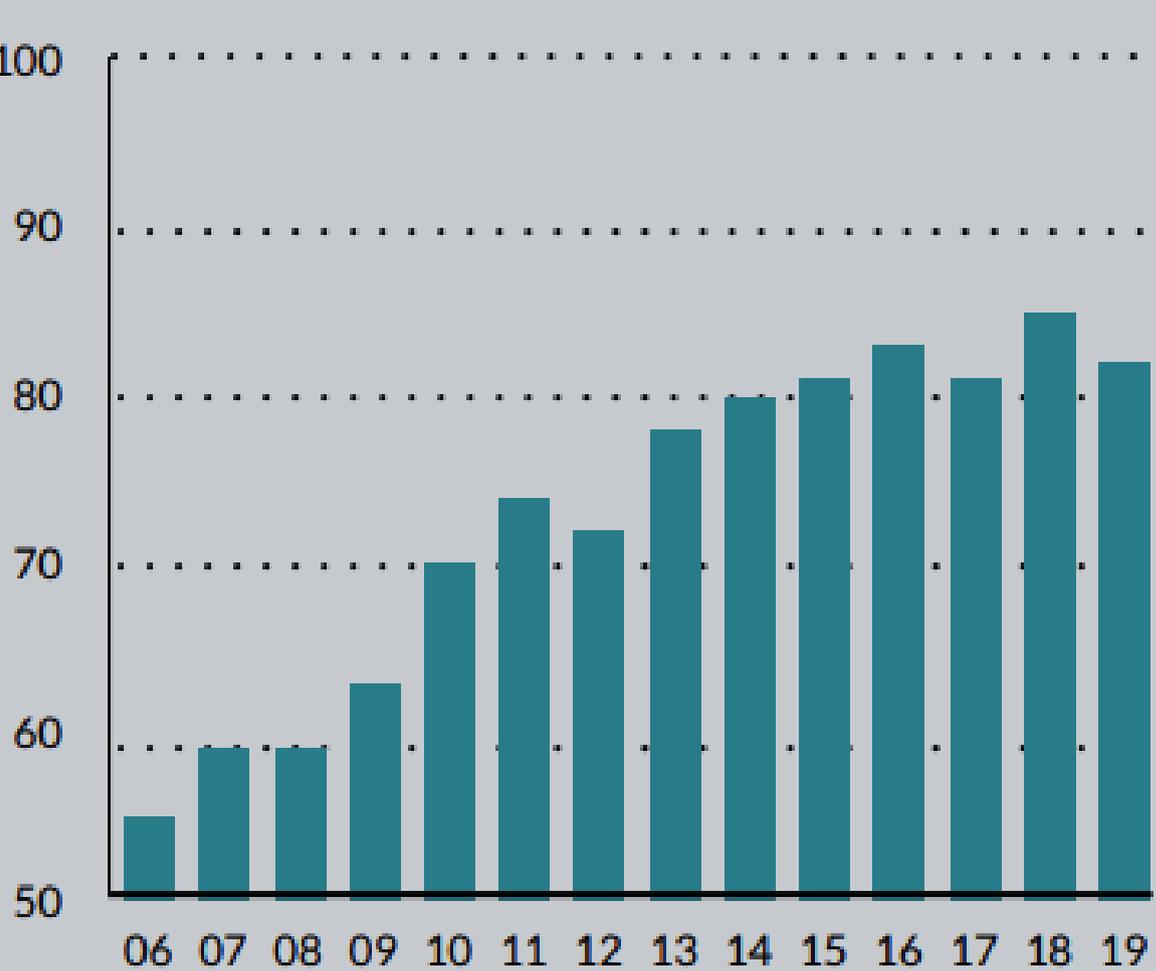
# Moving from the Stone Age to the Space Age:

## Change the health care cost discussion from “How much” to “How well”

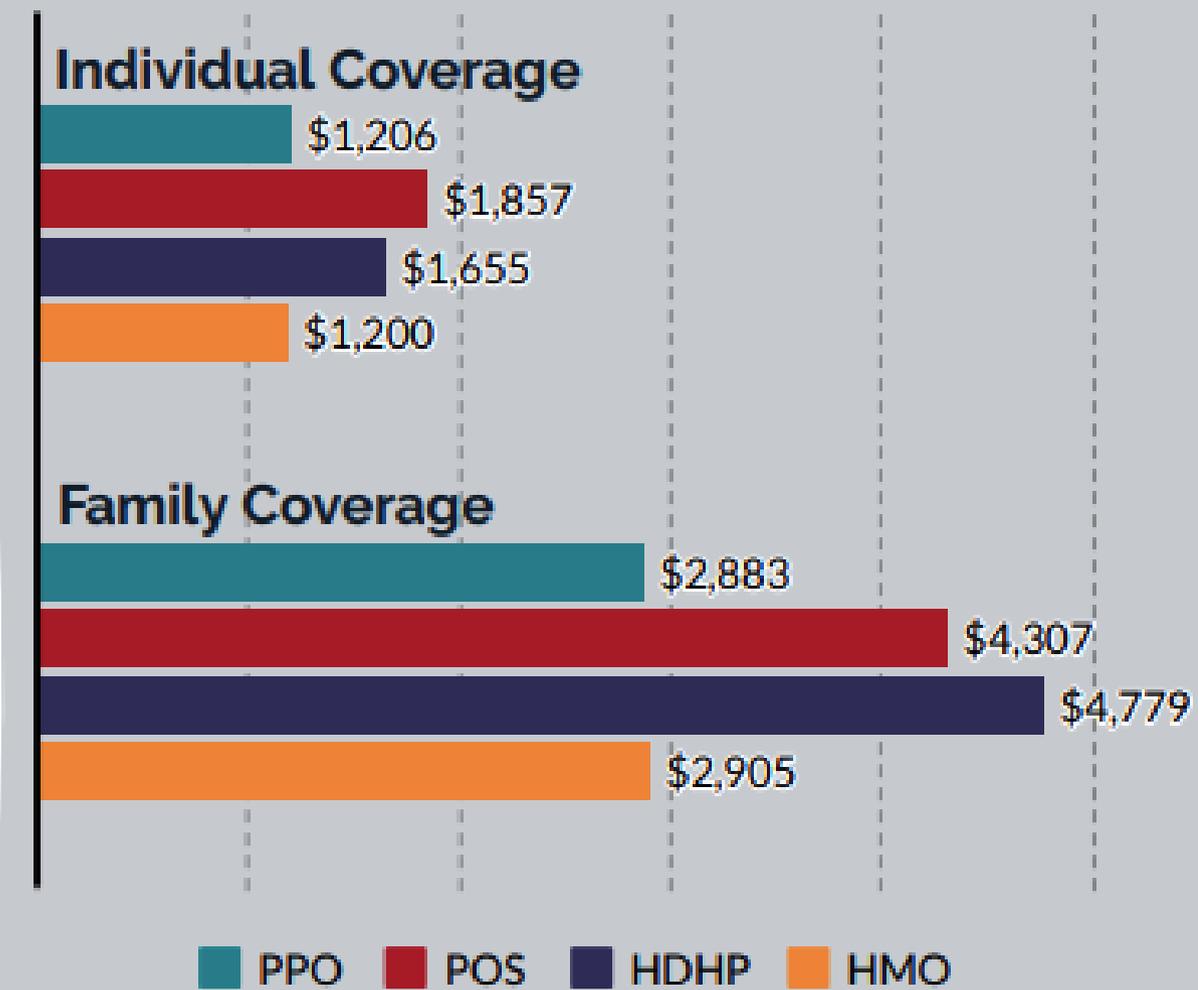
- Everyone (almost) agrees there is enough money in the US health care system; we just spend it on the wrong services and in the wrong places
- Moving from a volume-driven to value-based system requires a change in both how we pay for care and how we engage consumers to seek care
- The most common patient-facing strategy - consumer cost-sharing – is a ‘blunt’ instrument, in that patients pay more out of pocket for **ALL** care regardless of clinical value

Health Plan Deductibles have grown more than ten times faster than inflation over the last decade

### Percent of Americans With a Deductible



### Average Deductible by Plan Type in 2019



Americans Do Not Care About Health Care Costs;  
They Care About **What It Costs Them**

## **Patient Worry About Out-of-Pocket Healthcare Costs at All-Time High**

A report from the Commonwealth Fund noted that patients are not confident they can afford high out-of-pocket healthcare costs.



# Inspiration (Still)



“

I can't believe you had to spend a million dollars to show that if you make people pay more for something, they will buy less of it.

”

- Barbara Fendrick (my mother)

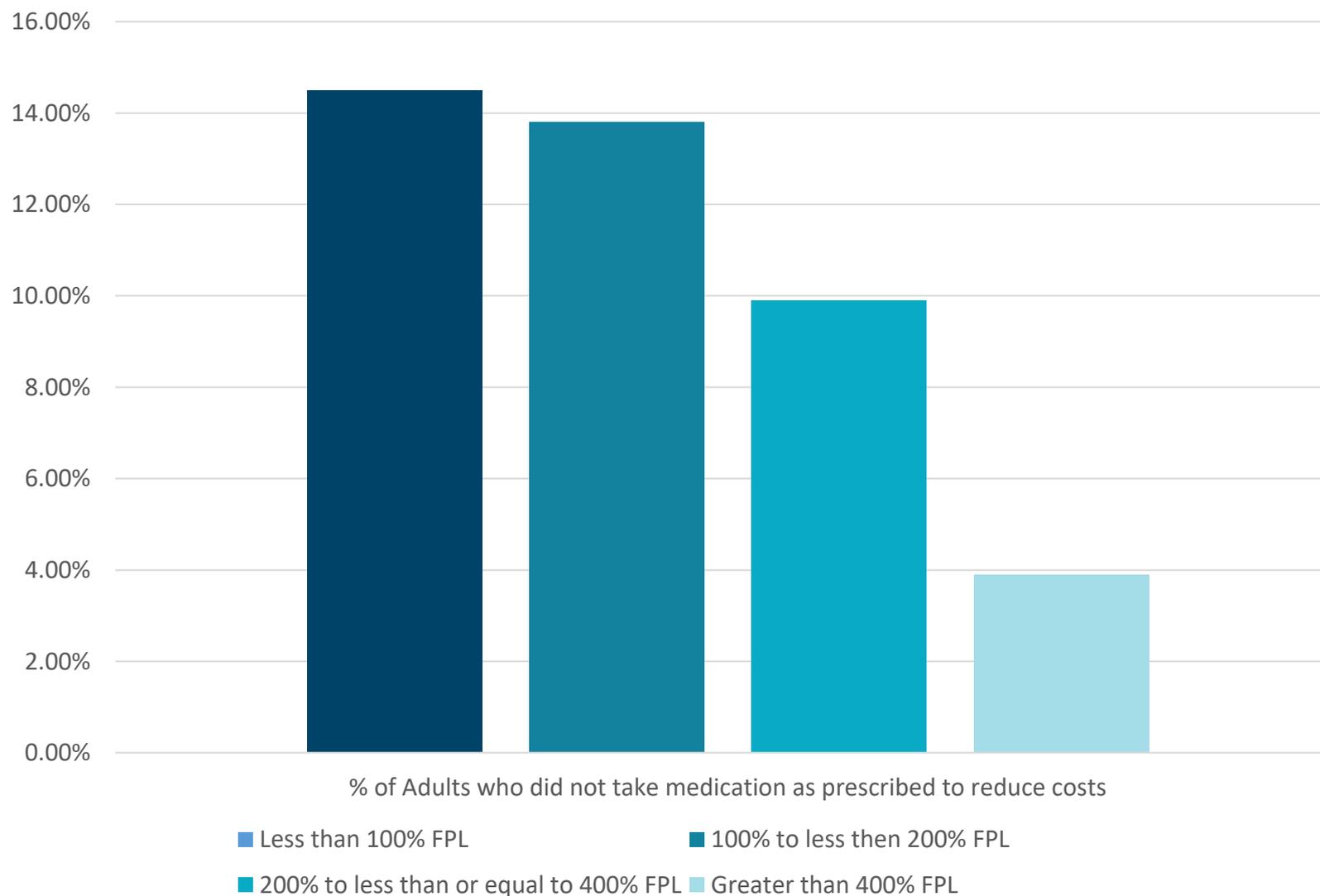
# “Blunt” Cost-Sharing Worsens Health Care Disparities

## Effects of Increased Patient Cost Sharing on Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Care

*Michael Chernew, PhD<sup>1</sup> Teresa B. Gibson, PhD<sup>2</sup> Kristina Yu-Isenberg, PhD, RPh<sup>3</sup>  
Michael C. Sokol, MD, MS<sup>4</sup> Allison B. Rosen, MD, ScD<sup>5</sup>, and A. Mark Fendrick, MD<sup>5</sup>*

- Cost-sharing worsens disparities and adversely affect health, particularly among economically vulnerable individuals and those with chronic conditions

# Percentage of adults who do not take medication as prescribed to reduce costs by family income (% of the Federal Poverty Level), U.S. 2021



Source: [CDC: Characteristics of Adults Aged 18–64 Who Did Not Take Medication as Prescribed to Reduce Costs: United States, 2021](#), June 2023

---

# The New York Times

---

OPINION  
GUEST ESSAY

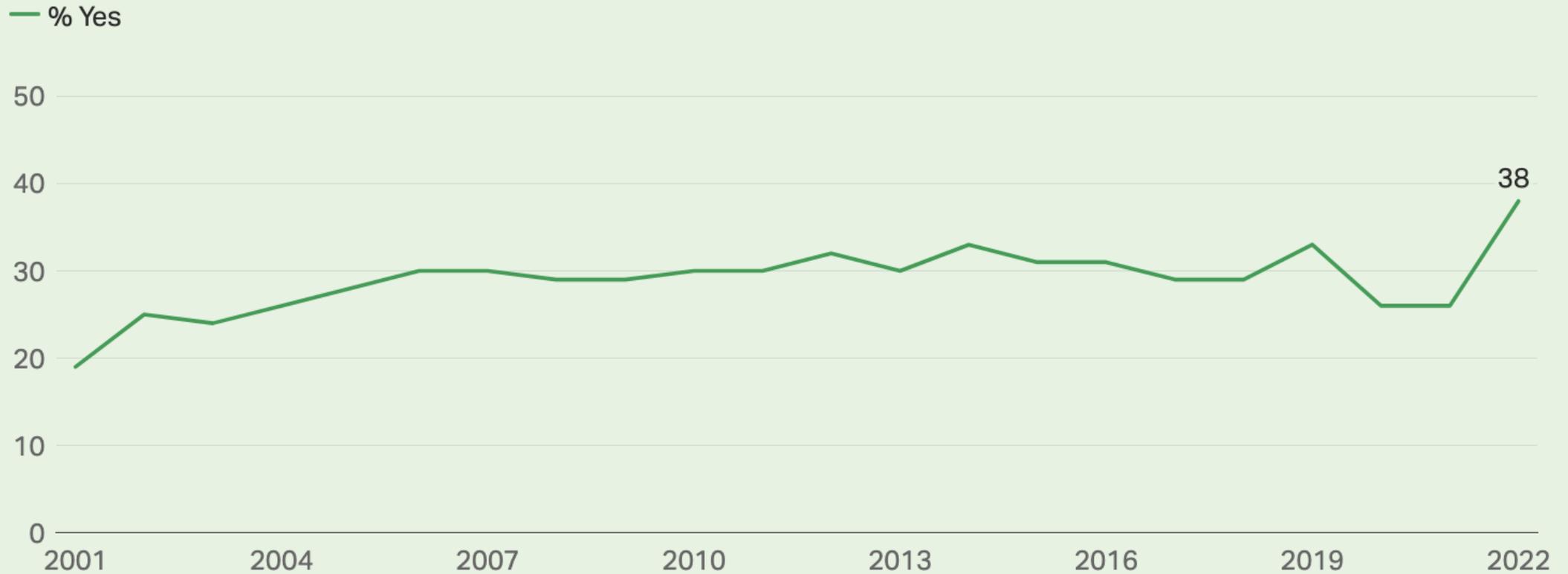
---

## What's Wrong With Health Insurance? Deductibles Are Ridiculous, for Starters.

July 7, 2022

## Record High in U.S. Putting Off Medical Treatment Due to Cost, 2001-2022

Within the last 12 months, have you or a member of your family put off any sort of medical treatment because of the cost you would have to pay?



[Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)

GALLUP

# What Americans say government efforts should prioritize when it comes to U.S. public health

Survey of 1,213 U.S. adults conducted Feb. 17-21, 2023

Lowering costs for health care and prescription drugs



Reducing gun deaths



Research into cures and treatment for major diseases



Ensuring the safety of existing health practices and medications



Preventing deaths from overdoses and accidents



Something else



# Alternative to “Blunt” Consumer Cost-Sharing: A Clinically Nuanced Approach

A “**smarter**” cost-sharing approach that encourages consumers to use more high value services and providers, but discourages the use of low value ones

# A Clinically Nuanced Alternative to “Blunt” Consumer Cost-sharing: Value-Based Insurance Design - More of the Good Stuff and Less of the Bad Stuff

- Sets consumer cost-sharing on clinical benefit – not price
- Little or no out-of-pocket cost for high-value care; higher cost-sharing for low-value care
- Implemented by hundreds of public and private payers
- Bipartisan political support
- Enhances equity



By Niteesh K. Choudhry, Katsiaryna Bykov, William H. Shrank, Michele Toscano, Wayne S. Rawlins, Lonny Reisman, Troyen A. Brennan, and Jessica M. Franklin

## **Eliminating Medication Copayments Reduces Disparities In Cardiovascular Care**

# V-BID:

## Rare Bipartisan Political and Broad Multi-Stakeholder Support

- HHS
- CBO
- SEIU
- MedPAC
- Brookings Institution
- Commonwealth Fund
- NBCH
- American Fed Teachers
- Families USA
- AHIP
- AARP
- DOD
- BCBSA
- National Governor's Assoc.
- US Chamber of Commerce
- Bipartisan Policy Center
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- American Benefits Council
- National Coalition on Health Care
- Urban Institute
- RWJF
- IOM
- Smarter Health Care Coalition
- PhRMA
- EBRI
- AMA

# A Clinically Nuanced Alternative to “Blunt” Consumer Cost-sharing: Choosing High and Low Value Services

The clinical benefit derived from a specific service depends on the consumer using it, as well as when, where, and by whom, the service is provided.

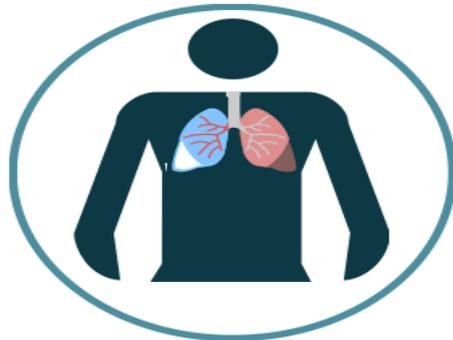
# Understanding CLINICAL NUANCE

#1

Clinical Services Differ  
in the Benefit Produced



**Office  
Visits**



**Diagnostic  
Tests**



**Prescription  
Drugs**

#2

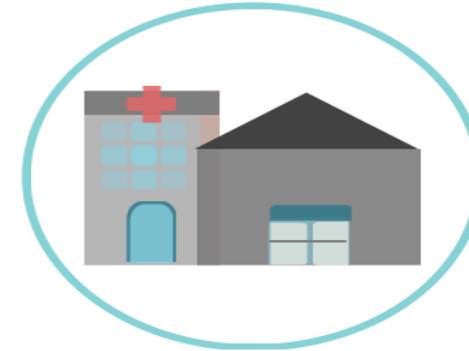
## The Clinical Benefit Derived From a Service Depends On...



**Who**  
receives it



**Who**  
provides it



**Where**  
it's provided

# Clinical benefit depends on **who** receives it

## Screening for Colorectal Cancer



### Screening Recipients

First-degree relative of colon cancer sufferer



**Exceptional Value**

Average risk  
50 year old



**High Value**

30 year old with no family history of colon cancer



**Low Value**

# who provides it...



**High Performance**

An illustration of a doctor in a white lab coat standing on the left. To the right is a scroll with a dark blue seal that says "CERTIFIED" in white letters. Below the seal are three red checkmarks on a scroll.

**Poor Performance**

An illustration of a doctor in a white lab coat standing on the right. To the left is a clipboard with a checklist. The checklist has three items: "Poor" with a red checkmark, "Average" with an empty box, and "Excellent" with an empty box.

# Clinical benefit depends on **where** care is provided



## Ambulatory Care Center



\$

## Hospital



\$\$\$

# V-BID:

## Rare Bipartisan Political and Broad Multi-Stakeholder Support

- HHS
- CBO
- SEIU
- MedPAC
- Brookings Institution
- Commonwealth Fund
- NBCH
- American Fed Teachers
- Families USA
- AHIP
- AARP
- DOD
- BCBSA
- National Governor's Assoc.
- US Chamber of Commerce
- Bipartisan Policy Center
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- American Benefits Council
- National Coalition on Health Care
- Urban Institute
- RWJF
- IOM
- Smarter Health Care Coalition
- PhRMA
- EBRI
- AMA

# Putting Innovation into Action: Translating Research into Policy



# ACA Sec 2713: Selected Preventive Services be Provided without Cost-Sharing

- Receiving an A or B rating from the United States Preventive Services Taskforce (USPSTF)
- Immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- Preventive care and screenings supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



# COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines Provided without Cost-sharing





## **Access to Preventive Services without Cost-Sharing: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act**

- Over 230 million Americans have enhanced access to preventive services
  - 150 million with private insurance – including 58 M women and 37 M children
  - 61 million Medicare beneficiaries
  - Approximately 20 million Medicaid adult expansion enrollees
- A majority of studies showed increases in use of fully covered services
- Studies that included socioeconomic status reported more substantial increases in utilization of preventive services in financially vulnerable patients, suggesting that the policy reduced disparities in the delivery of preventive care

# Texas Judge Finds ACA Requirement for Preventive Services Without Cost Sharing Invalid

- Several outstanding questions remain, but it is possible that this ruling will mean that employers will no longer have to provide first-dollar coverage for the 52 services that have received an “A” or “B” rating from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
- This requirement benefitted almost 152 million people in 2020 and led to increases in cancer screening and vaccinations, improved access to contraceptives, and earlier detection and treatment of chronic health conditions, including hypertension, depression, high cholesterol and diabetes.

RELATED TOPICS:

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT | PREVENTIVE CARE | PHARMACEUTICALS | ACCESS TO CARE | COST SHARING  
| DRUG COST SHARING | HIV/AIDS

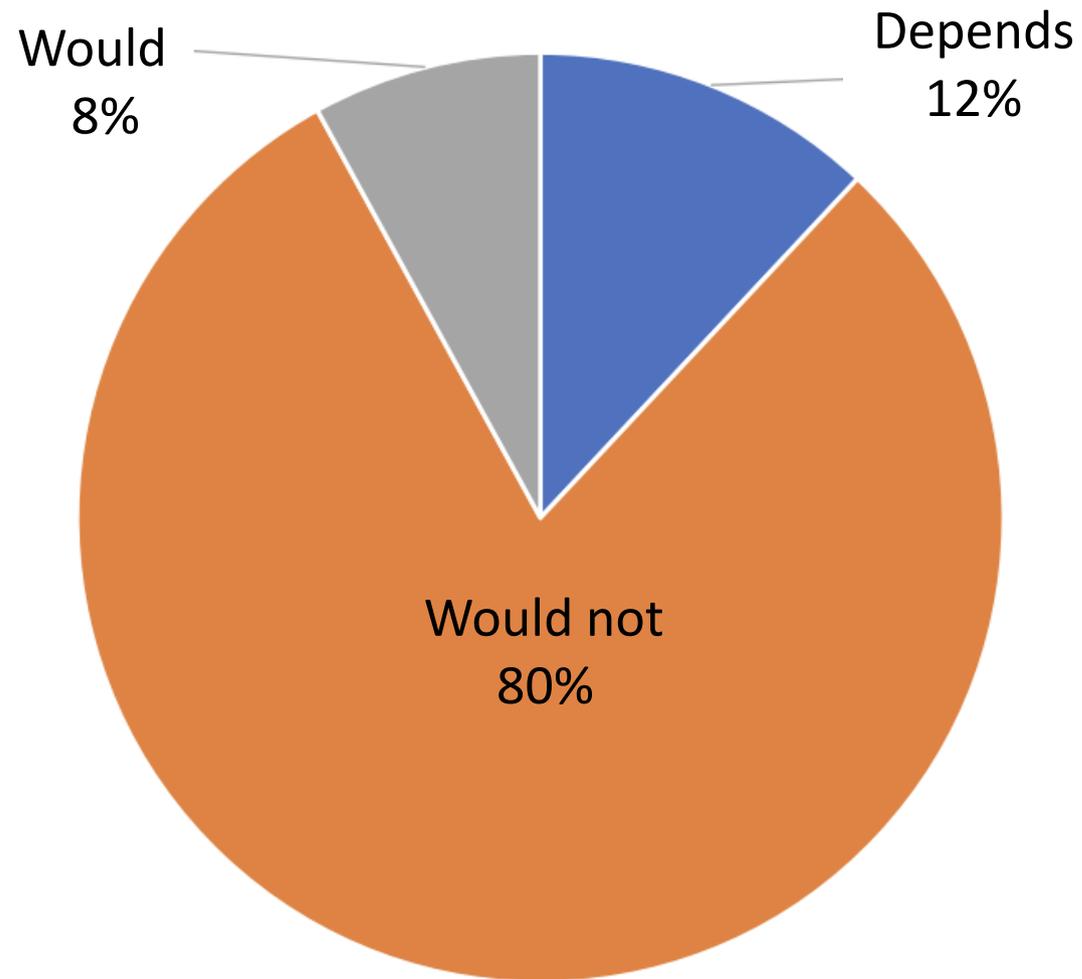
# A Texas Judge Just Invalidated The Preventive Services Mandate. What Happens Next?

[Nicholas Bagley](#), [A. Mark Fendrick](#)

MARCH 30, 2023

10.1377/forefront.20230330.177353

# Percentage of Employers That Would Impose Cost Sharing for Preventive Services if Allowed by Law



2 in 5 individuals report that they will not use preventive services if they are no longer fully covered

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) Pulse Survey of Health Benefits Decision Makers, n=25, representing over 600,000 employees.

# CANCER SCREENING



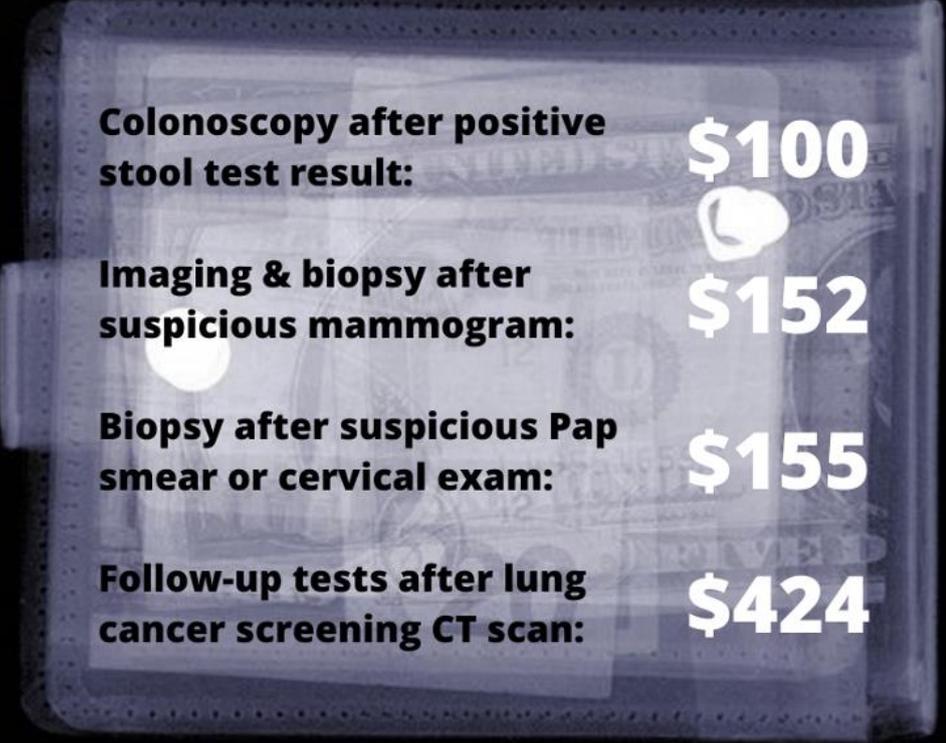
# Your Free Cancer Screen Shows Trouble: What If You Can't Afford the Follow-Up?

New VBID Center research shows that out-of-pocket costs are common and non-trivial for necessary follow-up testing after initial, abnormal no-cost cancer screening test.

- Breast <sup>1</sup>
- Cervical <sup>2</sup>
- Colorectal <sup>3</sup>
- Lung <sup>4</sup>

• [JAMA Network Open. 2021;4\(8\):e2121347](#)  
• [Obstetrics & Gynecology. 2022;139\(1\): doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000004582](#)  
• [JAMA Network Open. 2021;4\(12\): doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.36798](#)  
• [JACR E-pub ahead of print. 2021.DOI:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacr.2021.09.015](#)

## Average out-of-pocket costs for tests after a free cancer screening



Colonoscopy after positive stool test result:	\$100
Imaging & biopsy after suspicious mammogram:	\$152
Biopsy after suspicious Pap smear or cervical exam:	\$155
Follow-up tests after lung cancer screening CT scan:	\$424

# **FAQS ABOUT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION PART 51, FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT AND CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT IMPLEMENTATION**

January 10, 2022

**Q7: Are plans and issuers required to cover, without the imposition of any cost sharing, a follow-up colonoscopy conducted after a positive non-invasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization test (e.g., sigmoidoscopy, CT colonography)?**

Yes. A plan or issuer must cover and may not impose cost sharing with respect to a colonoscopy conducted after a positive non-invasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization screening test for colorectal cancer for individuals described in the USPSTF recommendation. As stated in the May 18, 2021 USPSTF recommendation, the follow-up colonoscopy is an integral part of the preventive screening without which the screening would not be complete.<sup>31</sup> The follow-up colonoscopy after a positive non-invasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization screening test is therefore required to be covered without cost sharing in accordance with the requirements of PHS Act section 2713 and its implementing regulations.

# CMS proposes follow-up colonoscopy after at-home test be considered preventive service

Riz Hatton - Friday, July 8th, 2022

## Colorectal Cancer Screening

For CY 2023, we are proposing two updates to expand our Medicare coverage policies for colorectal cancer screening in order to align with recent United States Preventive Services Task Force and professional society recommendations. First, we are proposing to expand Medicare coverage for certain colorectal cancer screening tests by reducing the minimum age payment limitation to 45 years. Second, we are

proposing to expand the regulatory definition of colorectal cancer screening tests to include a follow-on screening colonoscopy after a Medicare covered non-invasive stool-based colorectal cancer screening test returns a positive result. Both of these proposals reflect our desire to expand access to quality care and to improve health outcomes for patients through prevention and early detection services, as well as through effective treatments.

# First dollar coverage of the entire cancer screening continuum: 1 down, 3 to go

Cancer Type	Commercial Insurers	Medicare
	✓	✓
		
		
		



ELSEVIER

WOMEN'S  
HEALTH ISSUES

www.whijournal.com

Commentary

## Coverage for the Entire Cervical Cancer Screening Process Without Cost-Sharing: Lessons From Colorectal Cancer Screening



Allison Ruff, MD, MPHE<sup>a,\*</sup>, Diane M. Harper, MD, MPH, MS<sup>b,c,d</sup>,  
Vanessa Dalton, MD<sup>c</sup>, A. Mark Fendrick, MD, MPH<sup>a</sup>

**This Issue** Views **1,296** | Citations **0** | Altmetric **27**

**Invited Commentary** | Health Policy

March 27, 2023

## Eliminating Financial Barriers to Breast Cancer Screening—When Free Is Not Really Free

Ilana B. Richman, MD, MHS<sup>1</sup>; A. Mark Fendrick, MD<sup>2</sup>



Medicare Advantage

# High Out of Pocket Costs are Common and Impactful For Medicare Beneficiaries



**4 in 10**  
Paid over \$200

**34%**

of seniors on Medicare with high out-of-pocket costs reduced other spending in order to afford their prescription drugs

56%  
Reduced spending on non-essential activities

49%  
Reduced spending on every-day purchases

31%  
Accrued credit card debt

# Medicare Advantage V-BID Model Test: Expanded Opportunities

## Reduced cost-sharing permissible for:

- **high-value services**
- **high-value providers**
- **enrollees participating in disease management or related programs**
- **additional supplemental benefits (non-health related)**

### Wellness and Health Care Planning

Advanced care planning

Incentivize better health behaviors

### Rewards and Incentives

\$600 annual limit

Increase participation

Available for Part D

### Targeting Socioeconomic Status

Low-income subsidy

Improve quality, decrease costs

### Telehealth

Service delivery innovations

Augment existing provider networks

# Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 Includes Several V-BID Elements

- Caps Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 per year, with the option to break that amount into affordable monthly payments
- Covers adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices under Medicare Part D without cost-sharing
- Amends the Internal Revenue Code to create a safe-harbor allowing Health Savings Account-eligible plans to cover insulin prior to meeting the plan deductible
- Caps Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35 per month





**ASPE**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
PLANNING AND EVALUATION

OFFICE OF  
HEALTH POLICY

**RESEARCH REPORT**

July 7, 2023

HP-2023-19

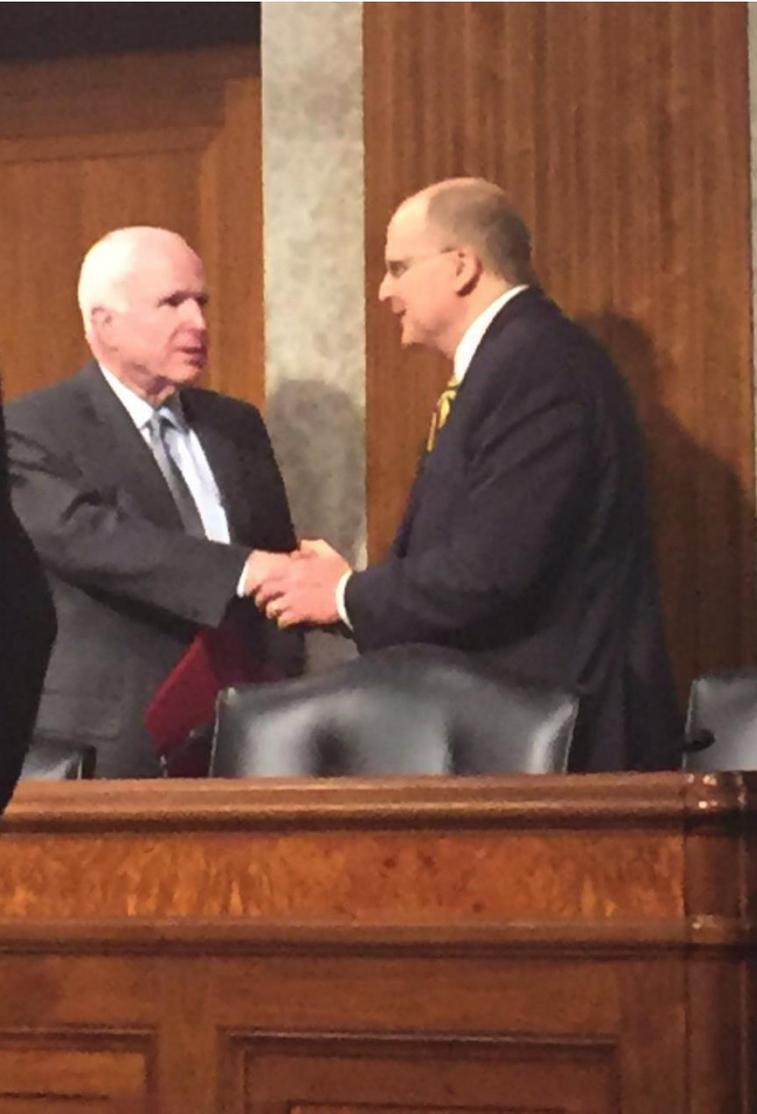
**—Inflation Reduction Act Research Series—  
Medicare Part D Enrollee Out-Of-Pocket Spending:  
Recent Trends and Projected Impacts of the  
Inflation Reduction Act**

The Inflation Reduction Act's redesign of Medicare Part D will reduce enrollee out-of-pocket spending by about \$7.4 billion annually among more than 18.7 million enrollees (36 percent of Part D enrollees) in 2025 – nearly \$400 per person among enrollees who have savings in out-of-pocket costs under the IRA.

# Putting Innovation into Action: Translating Research into Policy



# Value-based insurance coming to millions of people in Tricare



- **2017 NDAA: Obama Administration - reduce or eliminate co-pays and other cost sharing for certain high services and providers**
- **2018 NDAA: Trump Administration – reduce cost sharing for high value drugs on the uniform formulary**

# HSA-HDHP Reform



## PREVENTIVE CARE COVERED

Dollar one



## CHRONIC DISEASE CARE

NOT covered until deductible is met





# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

## PRESS RELEASES

# Treasury Expands Health Savings Account Benefits for Individuals Suffering from Chronic Conditions

---

# List of Services and Drugs for Certain Chronic Conditions Classified as Preventive Care Under Notice 2019-45

<b>Preventive Care for Specified Conditions</b>	<b>For Individuals Diagnosed with</b>
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors	Congestive heart failure, diabetes, and/or coronary artery disease
Anti-resorptive therapy	Osteoporosis and/or osteopenia
Beta-blockers	Congestive heart failure and/or coronary artery disease
Blood pressure monitor	Hypertension
Inhaled corticosteroids	Asthma
Insulin and other glucose lowering agents	Diabetes
Retinopathy screening	Diabetes
Peak flow meter	Asthma
Glucometer	Diabetes
Hemoglobin A1c testing	Diabetes
International Normalized Ratio (INR) testing	Liver disease and/or bleeding disorders
Low-density Lipoprotein (LDL) testing	Heart disease
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)	Depression
Statins	Heart disease and/or diabetes

# EBRI

October 14, 2021 • No. 542

# Issue

BRIEF

## **Employer Uptake of Pre-Deductible Coverage for Preventive Services in HSA-Eligible Health Plans**

*By Paul Fronstin, Ph.D., Employee Benefit Research Institute and A. Mark Fendrick, M.D., University of Michigan*

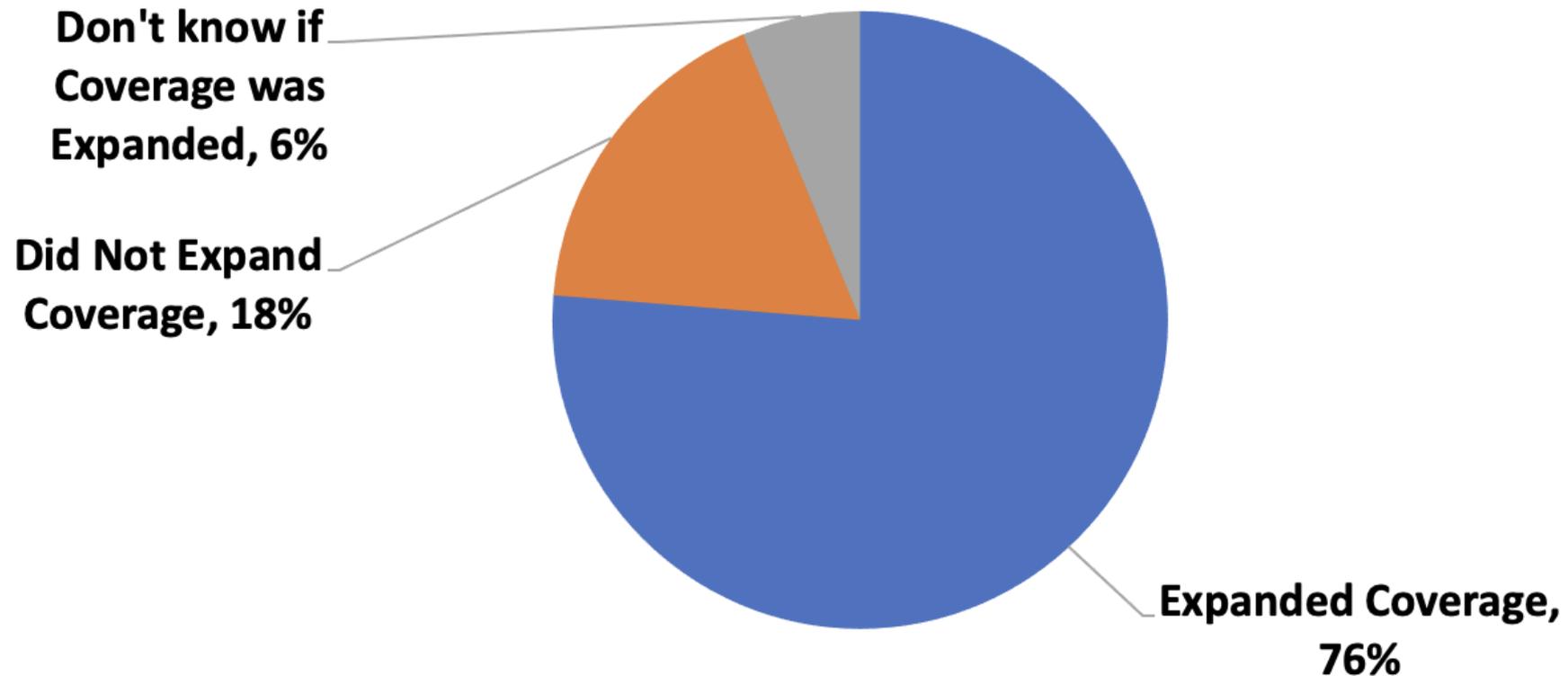
---

### AT A GLANCE

IRS Notice 2019-45 allows health savings account (HSA)-eligible health plans the flexibility to cover 14 medications and services used to prevent the exacerbation of chronic conditions prior to meeting the plan deductible.

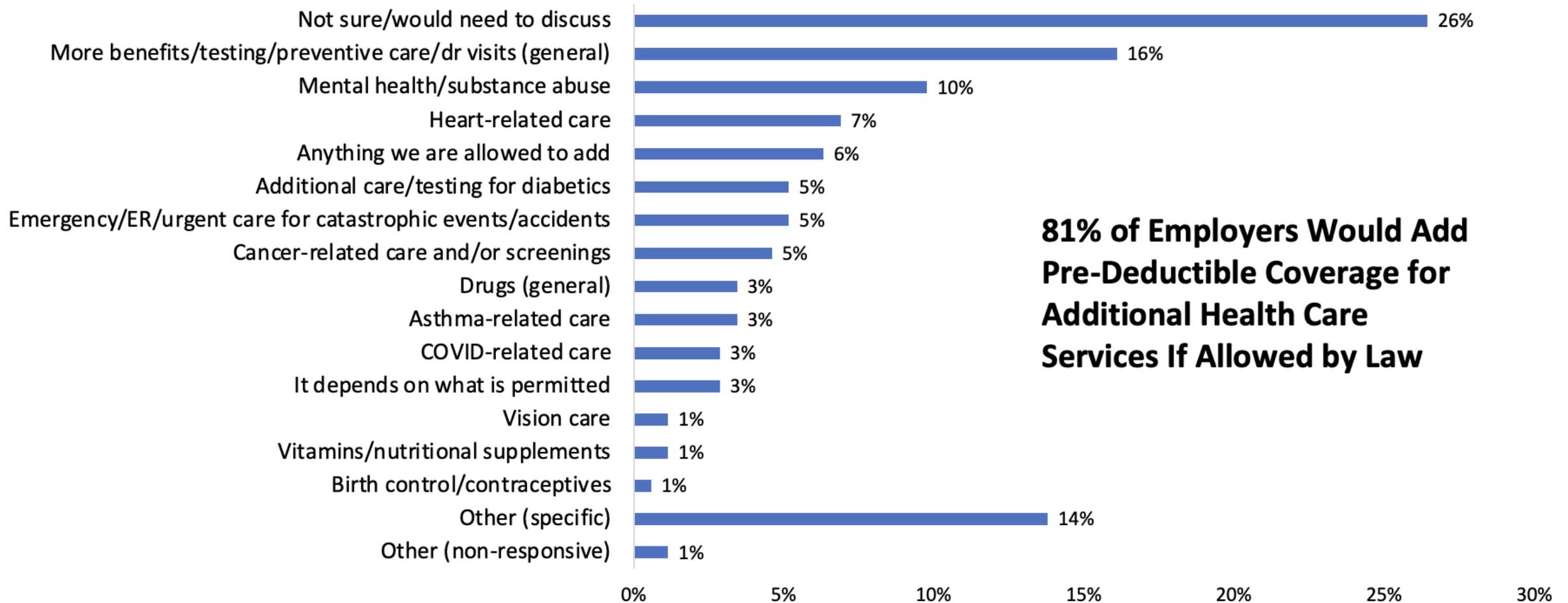
In this *Issue Brief*, we report on the findings from a 2021 Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) survey of employers that collected information on their response to the 2019 guidance. The survey examined not only whether employers added pre-deductible coverage as a result of Notice 2019-45, but also examined each of the allowed services individually; the type of cost sharing, if any, used in lieu of deductibles; and other relevant questions.

# Percentage of Employers Who Expanded Pre-Deductible Coverage in HSA-Eligible Health Plan for Preventive Services Allowed Under IRS Rule 2019-45



SOURCE: Fronstin, Paul, and A. Mark Fendrick, "Employer Uptake of Pre-Deductible Coverage for Preventive Services in HSA-Eligible Health Plans," EBRI Issue Brief, no. 542 (October 14, 2021).

# Additional Pre-Deductible Coverage that Employers Would Like to Add (Based on Open Ended Question)



**81% of Employers Would Add Pre-Deductible Coverage for Additional Health Care Services If Allowed by Law**

# IRS Notice 2019-45: Comment Letter

November 29, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Secretary Yellen and Commissioner Rettig:

The [Smarter Health Care Coalition](#) (the Coalition) appreciated working with the Department and the Service as you considered and finalized [Notice 2019-45](#), which allows more flexibility for health plans and employers to cover certain chronic disease prevention drugs and services pre-deductible in Health Savings Account-eligible plans. We remain grateful for the broadened preventive care safe harbor detailed in IRS Notice 2019-45, and we write to provide very encouraging data about the number of health plans and employers that have changed their plan benefit designs in response to the guidance. **As a result of this overwhelming, positive response, we urge you to expand the list of items and services that may be covered under the preventive care safe harbor to include additional high-value, low-cost drugs and services used to prevent complications of other chronic conditions, especially those that would prevent exacerbation of mental and behavioral health conditions, helping millions of Americans improve their mental and physical health.**



# Chronic Disease Management Act of 2023: Expands Services and Drugs for Chronic Conditions Classified as Preventive Care

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

## S. 1424

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit high deductible health plans to provide chronic disease prevention services to plan enrollees prior to satisfying their plan deductible.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2021

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

---

## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit high deductible health plans to provide chronic disease prevention services to plan enrollees prior to satisfying their plan deductible.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*



# Paying for More Generous Coverage of High Value Care: Reduce Spending on Low Value Care



# Paying for More Generous Coverage of High Value Care: Reduce Spending on Low Value Care

- Increase premiums – politically not feasible
- Raise deductibles and copayments – ‘tax on the sick’
- **Reduce spending on low value care**

**\$345  
BILLION**

## Examples include:



Vitamin D screening tests

Diagnostic tests before  
low-risk surgery



PSA screening for men 70  
and older

Branded drugs when identical  
generics are available



Low-back pain imaging  
within 6 weeks of onset

In the United States,  
low-value healthcare disproportionately  
impacts communities of color

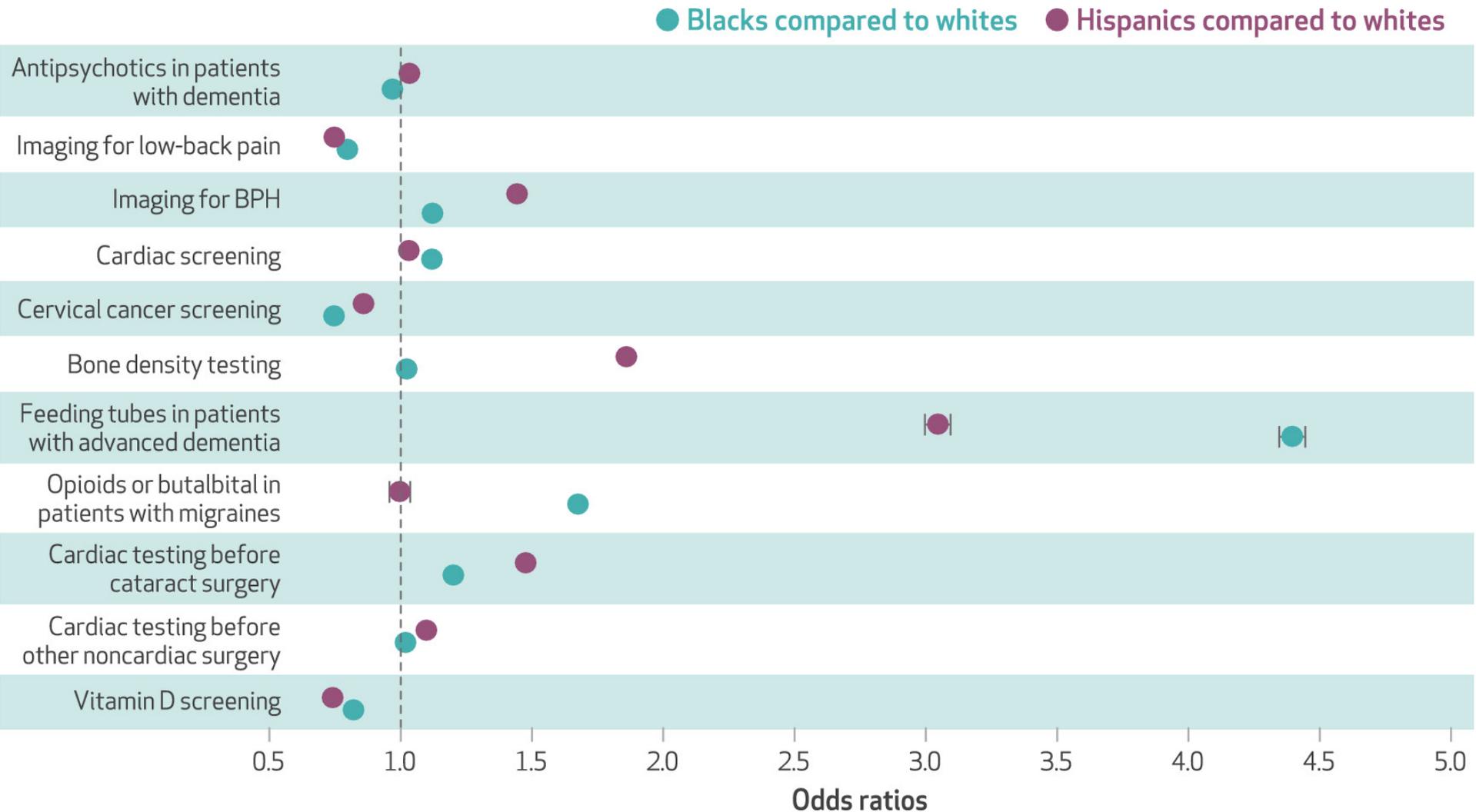
## Reducing Low-Value Care to Improve Health Equity

**M**V-BID

Reducing use of low-value care, starting with services that provide no clinical benefit in particular patient populations, is central to improving health equity

**M** | V-BID

# Blacks And Hispanics More Likely To Receive Low-Value Care Than Whites



# ACA Sec 4105: Modify or Eliminate Coverage of Certain Preventive Services

## SEC. 4105. EVIDENCE-BASED COVERAGE OF PREVENTIVE SERVICES IN MEDICARE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO MODIFY OR ELIMINATE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN PREVENTIVE SERVICES.**—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) **AUTHORITY TO MODIFY OR ELIMINATE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN PREVENTIVE SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, effective beginning on January 1, 2010, if the Secretary determines appropriate, the Secretary may—

“(1) modify—

“(A) the coverage of any preventive service described in subparagraph (A) of section 1861(ddd)(3) to the extent that such modification is consistent with the recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force; and

“(B) the services included in the initial preventive physical examination described in subparagraph (B) of such section; and

“(2) provide that no payment shall be made under this title for a preventive service described in subparagraph (A) of such section that has not received a grade of A, B, C, or I by such Task Force.”

(b) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect the coverage of diagnostic or treatment services under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

The ACA grants HHS  
the authority to  
eliminate coverage  
for USPSTF ‘D’ Rated Services in  
Medicare

# Milliman Health Waste Calculator

## Commonwealth of Virginia Unnecessary Care Initiative

- Among 5.5 million Virginia beneficiaries, **1 in 5** received at least 1 low-value service in 2014
- The 44 low-value services were delivered 1.7 million times, which cost **\$586 million** (~2% of healthcare spend – does NOT include care cascades)

### COSTS & SPENDING

By John N. Mafi, Kyle Russell, Beth A. Bortz, Marcos Dachary, William A. Hazel Jr., and A. Mark Fendrick

### DATAWATCH

## Low-Cost, High-Volume Health Services Contribute The Most To Unnecessary Health Spending

*An analysis of data for 2014 about forty-four low-value health services in the Virginia All Payer Claims Database revealed more than \$586 million in unnecessary costs. Among these low-value services, those that were low and very low cost (\$538 or less per service) were delivered far more frequently than services that were high and very high cost (\$539 or more). The combined costs of the former group were nearly twice those of the latter (65 percent versus 35 percent).*

# ACA Sec 4105: Selected No-Value Preventive Services Shall Not Be Paid For

## SEC. 4105. EVIDENCE-BASED COVERAGE OF PREVENTIVE SERVICES IN MEDICARE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO MODIFY OR ELIMINATE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN PREVENTIVE SERVICES.**—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) **AUTHORITY TO MODIFY OR ELIMINATE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN PREVENTIVE SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, effective beginning on January 1, 2010, if the Secretary determines appropriate, the Secretary may—

“(1) modify—

“(A) the coverage of any preventive service described in subparagraph (A) of section 1861(ddd)(3) to the extent that such modification is consistent with the recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force; and

“(B) the services included in the initial preventive physical examination described in subparagraph (B) of such section; and

“(2) provide that no payment shall be made under this title for a preventive service described in subparagraph (A) of such section that has not received a grade of A, B, C, or I by such Task Force.”.

(b) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect the coverage of diagnostic or treatment services under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

HHS granted authority to not pay for USPSTF ‘D’ Rated Services

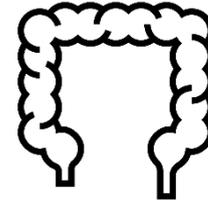
# Examples of USPSTF Grade D Services



Prostate cancer screening  $\geq 70$  years



Cervical cancer screening  $> 65$  years



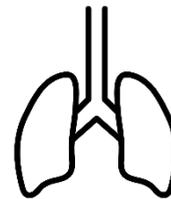
Colon cancer screening  $>85$  years



Cardiovascular screening in low risk patients



Asymptomatic bacteriuria screening



COPD screening



Vitamin D to prevent falls among older women

# Annual Use and Cost of Seven Grade D Services Among Medicare Enrollees



Total Annual Count:

**31 million**



Total Annual Costs:

**\$478 million**

---

# FEHB Program Carrier Letter

All FEHB Carriers

U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
Healthcare and Insurance

---

Letter No. 2021-03

Date: February 17, 2021

## *Addressing Low Value Care (USPSTF Ratings)*

OPM expects FEHB Carriers to cover all preventive services recommended by the [United States Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#) with an “A” or “B” rating as a preventive service. Those with a “D” rating indicate that the USPSTF recommends against the service because there is moderate or high certainty that the service has no net benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits and should not be covered *as a preventive service*.

As coverage of preventive services rated a “D” rating needlessly drives up costs with no associated medical benefit, FEHB Carriers are reminded that the accurate processing of claims includes review to ensure that medical services are appropriate and necessary. Therefore, OPM is instructing FEHB Carriers **not to cover as preventive benefits**, those services with a sole rating of “D” from the USPSTF. A current list will be included in the technical guidance.

V-BID X:

Better Coverage, Same Premiums and Deductibles



# V-BID X: Expanding Coverage of Essential Clinical Care Without Increasing Premiums or Deductibles

Clinically driven plan designs, like **V-BID X**,  
reduce spending on **low-value care**



...creating headroom to reallocate spending  
to **high-value services** without increasing  
**premiums or deductibles**

RELATED TOPICS:

[COST SHARING](#) | [DEDUCTIBLES](#) | [COSTS AND SPENDING](#) | [PHARMACEUTICALS](#) | [PREMIUMS](#)  
| [AFFORDABLE CARE ACT](#) | [MEDICARE ADVANTAGE](#)

# V-BID X: Creating A Value-Based Insurance Design Plan For The Exchange Market

Haley Richardson, Michael Budros, Michael E. Chernew, A. Mark Fendrick

**JULY 15, 2019**

[10.1377/hblog20190714](https://doi.org/10.1377/hblog20190714)

**TABLE 5 – HIGH AND LOW VALUE  
SERVICES AND DRUG CLASSES**

<b>High-Value Services with Zero Cost-Sharing</b>
<b>Glucometers and testing strips</b>
<b>LDL testing</b>
<b>Hemoglobin A1C testing</b>
<b>Cardiac rehabilitation</b>
<b>INR testing</b>
<b>Pulmonary rehabilitation</b>
<b>Peak flow meters</b>
<b>Blood pressure monitors</b>

# V-BID X: Enhancing Access and Affordability to Essential Clinical Services in Addition to COVID-19 Related Care

## **Specific Low-Value Services Considered**

**Spinal fusions**

**Vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty**

**Vitamin D testing**

**Proton beam for prostate cancer**

## **Commonly Overused Service Categories with Increased Cost-Sharing**

**Outpatient specialist services**

**Outpatient labs**

# CMS promotes value-based insurance design in final payment notice for 2021

Much of CMS's framework—including a list of high-value services that insurers could cover with little no impact on premiums but better care incentives—comes from the [University of Michigan's Center for Value-Based Insurance Design](#). The list includes a number of the same preventive care benefits that can be newly provided by a high-deductible health plan paired with a health savings account on a pre-deductible basis under [Treasury guidance](#) from July 2019. CMS also notes that PrEP, an HIV prevention medication, must [soon be covered](#) without cost-sharing by all non-grandfathered private health plans (including individual, small group, large group, and self-insured plans).

# State Exchanges Using V-BID X Principles to Enhance Equity

- California
- Colorado
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- District of Columbia
- Washington



## V-BID Elements Adopted to Achieve Equity in Health Insurance Coverage

Diabetes - 01/01/23

Pediatric mental and behavioral health - 01/01/24

# Covered California to Cut Patient Costs After Democratic Lawmakers Win Funding From Gov. Newsom

By [Angela Hart](#)

JULY 27, 2023

 REPUBLISH THIS STORY

# Aligning Payer and Consumer Incentives: As Easy as Peanut Butter and Jelly

Many “supply side” initiatives are restructuring provider incentives to move from volume to value:

- Medical Homes
- Electronic Medical Records
- Accountable Care Organizations
- Bundled Payments/Reference Pricing
- Global Budgets
- High Performing Networks



# Aligning Payer and Consumer Incentives: As Easy as Peanut Butter and Jelly

Unfortunately, some “demand-side” initiatives – including consumer cost sharing - discourage consumers from pursuing the “Triple Aim”



# Aligning Payer and Consumer Incentives: As Easy as PB & J

The alignment of clinically driven, provider-facing and consumer engagement initiatives is a necessary and critical step to improve quality of care, enhance patient experience, and contain cost growth



HEALTH AFFAIRS FOREFRONT

RELATED TOPICS:

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE | PAYMENT | PAYMENT MODELS | MEDICARE ADVANTAGE | LEGISLATION  
| MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS | VALUE | HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS | QUALITY OF CARE | DIABETES

# Beyond SGR: Aligning The Peanut Butter Of Payment Reform With The Jelly Of Consumer Engagement

[Gary Bacher](#), [Arielle Zina](#), [A. Mark Fendrick](#)

APRIL 22, 2015

10.1377/forefront.20150422.047207

# Enhancing Access and Affordability to Essential Clinical Services

- Expand pre-deductible coverage/reduce consumer cost-sharing on high-value clinical COVID-19 related care and other essential chronic disease services

# Enhancing Access and Affordability to Essential Clinical Services

- Save preventive care mandate
- Expand pre-deductible coverage/reduce consumer cost-sharing on high-value, essential chronic disease services
- Identify, measure and reduce low-value care to pay for more generous coverage of high-value care
  - Start with USPSTF D Rated Services
- Implement clinically-driven plan payment reform, technologies and benefit designs (i.e., V-BID X) that increase use of high-value services and deter low value care

Thank you

Questions?

[www.vbidcenter.org](http://www.vbidcenter.org)

[@UM\\_VBID](https://twitter.com/UM_VBID)