As the premier journal for managed care pharmacists, we are connecting the authors and investigators of cost-effectiveness research with the very people who are using this information to inform decisions. We are confident that this content will advance *JMCP*'s mission of improving the quality of care delivered to patients served by managed care pharmacy and optimizing the value of pharmaceutical products and services.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

In the national debate over rising health care costs, there is near universal agreement on the need to reward services and technologies that deliver value to patients and the health care system. The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) has long supported the shift from fee-for-service, volume-based payment to a value-based system. To facilitate this shift, AMCP endeavors to provide information, education, and advocacy

on the topic of value as it relates to managed care pharmacy. In fact, a quick search of the *JMCP* website reveals hundreds of articles just in the last few years that encompass value and value assessment. Toward the goal of a value-based health care system, the new *JMCP* series Perspectives on Value is being launched.

Any discussion of value in health care inevitably leads to questions about value assessment. What methods are valid for assessing value in health care? Who gets to decide what value is? How should value be rewarded in our system of constrained resources? The path to clarity on these and other questions about value assessment will no doubt be characterized by robust dialogue and scientific debate. We have seen this debate take hold as various frameworks and groups that assess value,

including ICER, have emerged in the United States and ignited disagreement over value assessment.

While there is ongoing debate over the process of value assessment and how to apply benchmarks such as those provided by ICER, there is a need to have these challenging discussions. This need is driven, in part, by scientific advances and the many innovative therapies that come to market each year. These therapies have the potential to improve the quality of care, or even potentially provide cures, for many diseases and conditions. Yet these therapies often come with high costs that must be managed in an environment of limited resources. As such, publication of ICER summaries and companion commentaries in *JMCP* gets to the very heart of managed care pharmacy's focus on advancing value in health care.

We are proud of AMCP's long track record of convening diverse health care stakeholders to address difficult challenges, and we see this new series in the same light. As health care professionals, we all share the same goal—to use sound scientific evidence to achieve optimal outcomes for our patients while ensuring efficient use of resources. Sharing these articles brings us a step closer to realizing that kind of value-based care system.

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