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FROM THE EDITOR

Pharmacogenomics and the Quest for Personalized Medicine: Revolution or Evolution?

■ **JAN E. BERGER, MD, MJ**

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The rise of pharmacogenomics could greatly change medicine and medication management over the next few years.

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Improving Healthcare Quality Through Comparative Effectiveness Research and Value-Based Insurance Design

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Change We Can Believe In: Requiring Better Evidence for Formulary Coverage

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P&T committees should implement more rigorous formulary restrictions that stimulate manufacturers to meet a higher standard when bringing new therapies to market.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Impact of New Antihypertensives on Healthcare Utilization by Hypertensive Patients

■ **ARIJIT GANGULI, BS PHARM, MBA; AND SONG HEE HONG, PHD**

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The authors advocate pharmacoeconomic evaluation of new antihypertensive drugs before acceptance by formulary decision makers.

Formulary Coverage for Antihypertensive Drugs Used in Children

■ **ESTHER Y. YOON, MD, MPH; MATTHEW M. DAVIS, MD, MAPP; DAVID B. KERSHAW, MD; AND SARAH J. CLARK, MPH**

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Differences in formulary coverage of antihypertensive medications for children between private and public insurance plans may impact physician prescribing practices and patient outcomes.

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Comparison of Pharmacists and Primary Care Providers as Immunizers

▪ JOHN FONTANESI, PHD; JAN D. HIRSCH, RPH, PHD;
SARAH M. LORENTZ, PHARM.D; DEBRA A. BOWERS, BA;
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Pharmacist-administered vaccination services were found to be more efficient, productive, and cost-effective than primary care visits or mass vaccination clinics.

Impact of Antidepressant Therapy on Statin Adherence and Cholesterol Control

▪ JEFFREY B. WEILBURG, MD; KATHLEEN M. O'LEARY, BA;
AND RICHARD W. GRANT, MD, MPH 158

Among patients with poor statin adherence, adequate antidepressant treatment significantly improved adherence and persistence compared with inadequate or no antidepressant treatment.

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A Necessary Balancing Act: Accessibility, Cost, and Need for New and Better Cures

▪ MYRL WEINBERG, CAE 164

Focusing first on patient needs is the key to finding a meaningful and effective solution to the complex issues regarding regulation of biosimilars.

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Generational Impact on Prescription Drug Trend: Part 2

▪ ANNA A. THEODOROU, RPH, MBA; JOHN A. SZYCHOWSKI, AAS, BS;
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This retrospective study of 558.9 million prescription claims explores how member age demographics affect prescription drug trends and provides top therapeutic classes by generation.

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“The main policy question we must grapple with now is this—how should insurers develop and implement formulary restrictions for new medications that will promote cost-effective and safe prescription drug use without restricting effective and necessary care?”

from

“Change We Can Believe In: Requiring Better Evidence for Formulary Coverage,”

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MISSION

To provide pharmacy and formulary decision makers with the information they need to improve the efficiency and health outcomes in managing pharmaceutical care.