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Feeling the Squeeze: Prescription Drug Pricing Trends and Options for State Policymakers

Speaker Biographies

Kevin Look, PharmD, PhD

Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy

Prescription Drug Pricing Trends in America

Kevin Look's research focuses on the impact of prescription drug insurance coverage, along with cost-containment policies on the cost, access, and quality of medication use. His research integrates the pharmacist perspective into policy analysis and utilizes a patient-centered approach to better understand the implications of health care policies for patients, pharmacies, and payers. Dr. Look has conducted evaluations of medication-related programs offered by both public and private payers, and assessed the impact of health care reforms such as the Affordable Care Act. He has also conducted research to better understand challenges related to the accessibility, affordability, and quality of medication use by underserved populations, with an emphasis on the unique health care needs of rural residents. His current work has focused on the impact of the prescription opioid epidemic in the state of Wisconsin, and identifying ways to incorporate pharmacists into prevention and treatment efforts.

Dr. Look received his Doctor of Pharmacy and his PhD in Social and Administrative Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a focus on economics and public policy analysis. He is also a practicing community pharmacist licensed in the state of Wisconsin.

Joe Cesarz, MS, PharmD

Pharmacy Director, Ambulatory Services, UW Health

Specialty Pharmacy Overview and Implications

Joe Cesarz is the Director of Ambulatory Pharmacy Services at University of Wisconsin, UW Health. He also serves as Director for UW Health's PGY2 (Hematology and Oncology) Specialty Pharmacy Residency Training Program. He received both his Doctor of Pharmacy degree and Master of Science degree in health-system pharmacy administration from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has over ten years of pharmacy experience in the inpatient and retail pharmacy practice setting, and currently oversees UW Health's 14 retail pharmacy locations, including its specialty pharmacy program, 340b contract pharmacy services, primary care and specialty clinic-based pharmacist services, centralized medication prior authorization programs, outpatient pharmacy fiscal and reimbursement team, and ambulatory pharmacy informatics.

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Rachel Currans-Henry, MPP

Director, Medicaid Bureau of Benefits Management, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Managing Wisconsin Medicaid's Pharmacy Program

Rachel Currans-Henry serves as a senior manager for the administration of the 1.2 million member Wisconsin Medicaid program with direct oversight of teams administering what Medicaid covers and how it is covered, including coverage benefits policies and programs, a \$900 million pharmacy benefit program, a managed care delivery model for over 700,000 individuals, and quality improvement and health care delivery reform strategies. Ms. Currans-Henry has served in numerous leadership positions within the Department of Health Services over the past 10 years including service as an appointee for Governor Jim Doyle overseeing external relations and serving as top advisor to the Health Secretary on policy and legislative matters including health care reform implementation.

Ms. Currans-Henry received her Master's Degree in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and History from the College of St. Catherine, in St. Paul, MN.

Eileen Mallow

Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy, Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds
NASHP 2016 Prescription Drug Pricing Report

Eileen Mallow has a long career in state government including time as a policy analyst with the Medicaid program, with the short-lived Cost Containment Commission, Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (HIRSP) director, and Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. She also worked in a local Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) before returning to state service at the Department of Employee Trust Funds in 2015. Ms. Mallow is a member of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) Pharmacy Costs Work Group, contributing to its October 2016 Report, *States and the Rising Cost of Pharmaceuticals: A Call to Action*.