

From: Tom Gottlieb, MD
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To: Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care
Contact Address: (email only) cocostcomm@keystone.org

Re: Presentation on: The Cost of Prescription Drugs in Context
By: Tara C. F. Ryan
Vice President, State Advocacy
PhRMA

Commission Board Members,

I reviewed the Power Point (PP) presentation delivered to the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care (CCAHC) in November 2015.

Comments:

1. The PP presentation is consistent with the policy and political positions presented by PhRMA over the past years.
2. This presentation contrasts strikingly from data available regarding the cost of drugs in other OECD nations, e.g. European countries, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Canada, and many more).
3. I have summarized the PP presentation and included the summary as an attachment. I have also included my evaluation and conclusion of the presentation.
4. I have attached my bibliography (references) that support my position that cost containment will not met by the PhRMA recommended solutions.
5. Alternative forms of cost containment have been proven to be very effective and have been successfully introduced to OECD countries resulting in a cost 40% - 50% of the cost to American patients.

Recommend:

The CCAHC should invite an evidence-based presentation regarding prescription drug costs. This could be done by contacting:

Donald Light, PhD
Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics,
Center for Migration & Development, Princeton University
Rowan University - School of Osteopathic Medicine
dlight@princeton.edu

Donald Light is a professor of comparative health care at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. He is an economic and organizational sociologist who compares health care systems and analyzes health care policies. He has written about the history and dynamics of health care markets and health care insurance, countervailing powers, the medical profession, immigrants and health care, and global justice.

As a founding fellow of the Center for Bioethics, Light is concerned about the high prices of medicines and barriers to their access. His research aims to provide a demythologized, more realistic account of costs, relative effectiveness and harms, and innovation than is promoted by commercial interests and sponsored academics. He is concerned that current incentives, laws, and regulations encourage companies to develop many new drugs with few advantages, rather than focusing on really superior new drugs. In the long run, this does not serve the major companies or society well.

With Respect,

Tom Gottlieb, MD
Attachments: (3)