(26.9%). Overall, MPRs were 0.58 for long-acting beta-agonists (LABA); 0.61 for ipratropium+short-acting beta-agonist; 0.63 for ipratropium; 0.63 for inhaled corticosteroids (ICS); and 0.90 for theophylline (THEO). There were similar results in stratified analyses by disease group with lowest MPRs for LABA and highest for THEO. For ICS users, factors associated with MPRs >= 0.75 were: higher proportion of prescriptions through mail order, Caucasians, and ED visit or hospitalization in the baseline period. For LABA users, in addition to the factors for ICS users, specialist provider visits were associated with high MPRs.

CONCLUSIONS: Patients had higher levels of adherence for oral medications than for inhaled medications. Higher adherence rates were associated with serious events and greater use of mail order. Thus, route of administration, disease and health system factors all appear to influence adherence to chronic respiratory medications.

OBJECTIVE: To establish the need to include designated community (private) pharmacies/pharmacists in the Lagos State DOTS programme for effective control of Tuberculosis.

METHOD: A cross sectional descriptive study involving the use of semi structured questionnaires administered to a random sample of an estimated population (150) of community pharmacists in Lagos State of Nigeria. Data was analysed by use of SPSS 12.

RESULTS: The results show that: 86.8% of respondents stocked anti-TB drugs; 67.2% of them had dispensed these drugs at least within the immediate past one month preceding survey; 19.3% of them were patronised daily and 43.3% dispensed without a doctors prescription. 63.7% of respondents did not acknowledge that TB drugs were given to patients free of charge anywhere, 43.4% did not know about DOTS; 89.2% were of the opinion that community pharmacies would help increase TB control coverage, 68.1% would accept to render DOTS services in their pharmacies out of which 15.5% would do that at no costs. 80.9% of respondents claimed that a pharmacist is on duty in their pharmacies throughout open hours; however most were not seen until after several visits. 1.4% of the pharmacists were of the opinion that TB is incurable while 8.3% said TB runs in families, however 75.8% reported that most HIV patients present with TB co-infection. CONCLUSION: Designated community pharmacies that meet basic ethical requirements with regards to environment, facilities, location and personnel should be accredited to render DOTS services for effective and efficient grass root TB control, especially in places like Nigeria where TB is on the increase as a result of HIV pandemic. This will improve proper monitoring and patients compliance by reducing travel time, cost and risk of travel to clinics, social stigmatisation, waiting time, and generally reduce the real cost of treatment for patients, with an assured wider coverage.

PR510
PREDICTORS OF DRUG PERSISTENCY FOR ASTHMA AND COPD PATIENTS
Lipskiy N, Hess G, Frucht B
Surveillance Data Inc, Plymouth Meeting, PA, USA

OBJECTIVE: This study examines the predictors of patient persistency for major drug categories related to the treatment of Asthma and COPD. METHODS: The study design was retrospective covering the 12-month, longitudinal period (October 2003–September 2004). It included analysis of electronic CMS1500 claims for 26,152 unique patients (HIPAA compliant). Patients’ medication was assessed through NCPDP electronic claims utilizing NDC codes and drug classes. Treatment persistency was identified and compared across drugs in each disease group. Analysis included calculations of descriptive statistics and regression modeling. RESULTS: On average, COPD patients are more persistent then asthma patients. In particular, the persistency of COPD patients taking Advair, Combivent, Flovent and Pulmicort was higher than those patients diagnosed with asthma, respectively by 13.5%, 34.3%, 25.8% and 34.6% (P < 0.05). The age of patients is one of the most important predictors of a patients’ persistency. For example, the likelihood of refilling a long-acting bronchodilator (LABA) prescription for asthma in patients age 18 years and older is 1.51 times higher (p < 0.05) than for those patients who are in the age category 17 years and younger. For both, asthma and COPD, there is a strong relationship between therapeutic class of drugs and persistency. The highest persistency of asthma patients was identified for those who use xanthines, and the lowest for those who take oral beta-blockers (1.89 times difference, P < 0.05). COPD patients were more persistent in their use of xanthines and had their lowest persistency on inhaled corticosteroids (1.66 times difference, P < 0.05). Logistic regression models were created to quantify the relationship between average lengths of treatment and predictors. CONCLUSIONS: There is a significant difference between drug persistency for patients with asthma and COPD even when controlling for the same medication. Adjusted for diagnosis, the major predictors of patient persistency appeared to be patient’s age and therapeutic drug category.
were not significant in the model. CONCLUSIONS: Medicaid patients with COPD, who are African American, older than 40, with a diagnosis of hypertension, obesity, diabetes, cardiomyopathy or myocardial infarction are at significantly higher risk for heart failure. Managed care plans may need to consider those risk factors in Medicaid patients with COPD.

**PRS13**

HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURE AND UTILIZATION FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE

*Nurmagambetov T, Atherly A, Williams S, Redd S*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA

OBJECTIVE: This study estimates inpatient, outpatient, and prescription drugs expenditures and health care utilization for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

METHODS: Inpatient and outpatient claims with primary diagnosis of COPD-defining diseases (ICD-9 codes 491**, 492**, 496**) from 1998–2002 were extracted from Medstat Marketscan database and then matched to prescription drug expenditures using unique identifiers. Regression models controlled for age, gender, employment status, health plan type and other variables. All regression factors mentioned below were significant with \( p < 0.01 \). RESULTS: Average per patient annual expenditures was $7874–$11,412 for inpatient service depending on the type of health plan; $154–$238 for outpatient visits; and $85–$151 for prescription drugs. Results also indicated that gender, age, health care plan type, the region where patient lived and the patient’s industry type all significantly affected health care expenditures and utilization for COPD care. For example, women were less likely to be hospitalized or receive outpatient care, but were more likely to fill COPD-related prescription drugs. Patients in plans requiring a primary care physician referral to receive specialty care (PCP plans) were less likely to be hospitalized, made fewer outpatient visits and filled fewer COPD-related prescriptions. Overall, inpatient expenditures were 1.2% higher for men and 18% lower for patients enrolled in PCP plans. Outpatient expenditures were about 3% higher for men and about 1.7% higher for patients in PCP plans. Prescription medication expenditures were about 2% higher for men and about 19% lower for patients in PCP plans. In all regressions, older patients had higher expenditures. CONCLUSION: There is a substantial economic burden associated with COPD which can potentially be reduced significantly by enrolling patient in PCP plans. Further research is needed to examine why men with COPD use more health care than women and to assess the quality of care provided by PCP plans.

**PRS14**

RISK-BENEFIT ASSESSMENT OF TELITHROMYCIN FOR THE TREATMENT OF CAP USING QUALITY-ADJUSTED DAYS (QAD) LOST

*McGarry L*, Iskandar R*, Calimeris L, Dai WS**, Wu JH**

1Innovus Research, Inc, Medford, MA, USA; 2Sanofi-Aventis, Bridgewater; NJ, USA; 3Harvard School of Public Health & Innovus Research; Inc, Boston, MA, USA

OBJECTIVE: To conduct a benefit-risk assessment comparing telithromycin with other commonly prescribed therapies for the treatment of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP).

METHODS: We developed a model to quantify the benefits and risks of telithromycin versus other common therapies for CAP in terms of quality-adjusted days (QAD) gained. A typical 65-year-old patient was assumed to receive amoxicillin, clarithromycin, or telithromycin for the treatment of acute CAP. Drug efficacy, drug resistance, adverse event (AE) rates and sequelae, and utility decrements associated with CAP and AEs were estimated from published clinical trials and other secondary sources. Benefits of telithromycin versus other therapies were assessed by estimating the gain in QAD due to successful treatment of CAP. Risks were assessed by estimating the QAD lost due to treatment-related AEs (liver toxicity, prolonged QT interval, diarrhea, and blurry vision) and their sequelae. The net benefit of telithromycin was calculated by summing expected benefits and risks over the 21-day period after treatment initiation (including lifetime QAD lost due to death and chronic conditions). We used a second-order Monte Carlo simulation to evaluate the effect of uncertainty in key model parameters on our findings. RESULTS: Patients treated with telithromycin versus amoxicillin are expected to gain 31.01 QAD due to successful treatment of CAP and 0.26 QAD due to AEs. Versus clarithromycin, telithromycin patients lose 0.01 QAD to AEs; however, the net benefit is a gain of 13.09 QAD. Probabilistic sensitivity analyses showed telithromycin to be at least as beneficial as amoxicillin and clarithromycin in 85% and 68% of 10,000 iterations, respectively. CONCLUSIONS: Telithromycin demonstrated a net benefit in terms of QAD gained versus both amoxicillin and clarithromycin despite slightly higher risks due to AEs than clarithromycin. In general, QAD lost due to AEs were negligible compared to the potential benefits from successful treatment of CAP with telithromycin.

**PRS15**

PREDICTING EXACERBATION EVENTS IN COPD USING ADMINISTRATIVE DATA


1Loveland Clinic Foundation, Albuquerque, NM, USA; 2Pfizer Inc, New York, NY, USA

OBJECTIVES: Cost-effectiveness modeling in COPD is often problematic because the utilization data is usually derived from participants in randomized clinical trials, who may not be very representative of patients treated in the general population. We used the administrative data of a large cohort of COPD patients treated by one managed care system to see whether exacerbation events could be predicted with sufficient accuracy to be used in cost modeling. METHODS: COPD patients under usual care who were continuously enrolled in the Lovelace Health Plan for selected, seasonal 6-month blocks during the study’s observation period (September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2003) were identified using administrative data and a cross-sectional-pooling design (N = 2850). Subsequent exacerbation events, defined as hospital admissions or outpatient encounters with a primary respiratory diagnosis, were captured from the database. Logistic regression models were then developed to identify factors associated with exacerbations. RESULTS: Approximately 46% of the cohort had one or more exacerbations during the observation period. Factors significantly associated with an exacerbation (p < 0.05) included age, the number of pulmonary and non-pulmonary outpatient encounters, the total number of prescription fills, having one or more serious comorbidities, ever having an additional diagnosis of asthma, the season of the prior 6 month period as well as having had an exacerbation as well as many two-way interaction terms. The model was able to predict the status of patients with a good degree of accuracy (69% concordant, 30% discordant, 1% tied). CONCLUSIONS: COPD exacerbation events can be reliably predicted from the utilization data commonly found in health system administrative databases. The predicted probabilities from these models can be used to estimate transition probabilities in Markov and similar cost-effectiveness models.