to ensure decisions are based on clinical and cost-effectiveness. Involving patients in the drug development lifecycle has the potential to improve health outcomes and reduce health expenditure associated with poor management, often related to non-compliance. The earlier patients are involved, the greater the potential to avert or minimise factors that could affect commercial success and return on investment.

CONCLUSIONS: For the biopharmaceutical industry, the value of patient perspectives lies as part of a risk-mitigation strategy to provide greater insight and control over factors that affect market success. For regulators and payers, the value lies in the potential to improve health outcomes and reduce health care budgets.

POST HEALTH CARE REFORM PERCEPTIONS IN THE US: CONSUMER PULSE SURVEY

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OBJECTIVES: In March 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which radically changed the health care landscape in the United States. We carried out a survey to gauge consumers’ opinion about the U.S. health care system after the PPACA was signed into the U.S. law.

METHODS: We commissioned Harris Interactive to conduct a nationally representative telephone survey of 1,019 adults from the U.S. between May 21-24. Respondents were questioned on their current insurance coverage status, their knowledge about the PPACA, and their perception of the reform. Data were weighted to be representative of the total U.S. adult population in terms of age, sex, geographic region and race. The survey has a sampling error of 3.3% at 95% confidence level.

RESULTS: 84% of all adults surveyed have an health insurance; 96% of adults 65 years old and above have health insurance. Overall, while 36% of all adults surveyed think they will be “better off” as a result of the reform; 43% think they will become “worse off”. 61% of respondents said they are “very knowledgeable” or “somewhat knowledgeable” about the PPACA; 54% of adults surveyed who rated themselves as “very knowledgeable” think they will be “worse off” as a result of the bill. Adults surveyed anticipate an increase in tax (76%), hospital and physician prices (65%), health insurance cost (65%) and cost of medications (54%).

CONCLUSIONS: According to the survey, while the majority of consumers are satisfied with their current health care coverage, many have concerns about potential changes from PPACA. Concerns include health insurance coverage, access to quality health care and potential cost increase. In addition, the majority of consumers said that they are at least somewhat knowledgeable about PPACA.

HEALTH CARE USE & POLICY STUDIES – Diagnosis Related Group

PHP5

PATIENT DISCHARGE FROM INTENSIVE CARE UNITS WITHIN AND BETWEEN HOSPITALS IN HUNGARY

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OBJECTIVES: In our earlier study we found that measured by the number of cases (patients), the market share of intensive therapy was analyzed in Hungary and was found between 0.84% and 1.80% during a 14-year period (1993-2008). The discharge of patient not needing intensive therapy is obligated. The aim of the study was to analyze patient discharge. METHODS: Data were derived from the National Health Insurance Fund Administration. The two types of patient discharge were analyzed during a 9-year period, the discharges from intensive care unit within the same hospital and between different hospitals from 2000 to 2008. RESULTS: Compared to the total discharges the within and between hospitals discharges changed between 70.6% (2000) and 77.3% (2005) during the 9 years (2000-2008). Within hospital discharge started from 65.2% (2000) and the highest value was 73.0% (2006). Between hospitals discharged changed between 2.9% (2006) and 5.4% (2000). The sum of the two types discharge steadily increased from 70.6% (2000) to 77.3% (2005) in the first 6 years and after a linear descending it finished on 74.7% in 2008. Within hospital discharge increased from 65.2% (2000) to 73.0% (2006) and decrease to 69.6% until 2008. Between hospitals discharges decreased from 5.4% (2000) to 4.3% (2001), but it were steady from 2002 to 2005 (4.3-4.8%). In 2006 a sudden decrease happened to 2.9% and after it the values were 3.3-3.2% in the last 2 years. The mean of the within hospital discharges were 70.5% while the between hospitals discharges were 4.2%. CONCLUSIONS: In Hungary between 2000 and 2008 the discharges of the patients from the intensive care units to other hospital departments were 70.5%. The majority (94.38%) of the discharged patients was treated in the same hospital and only a minor proportion (5.62%) were moved to other hospitals.