cessfully developing condition-specific formularies. Annually an estimated $456,000 and $1813,000 drug cost savings could be achieved by the hospice as a result of implementing depression and CHF formularies.

THE VALUE OF MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION SCINTIGRAPHY (MPS) IN CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE (CAD): A REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC LITERATURE SUBMITTED TO THE UK NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE (NICE)

Sidhu MK1, Scott DA1, Vale L2, Chambers MG2
1Fourth Hurdle Consulting, London, UK, 2University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK

OBJECTIVES: To review reported economic evaluations of myocardial perfusion scintigraphy (MPS) for patients with suspected coronary artery disease (CAD); to synthesise and communicate two reviews undertaken to support an appraisal of MPS in this technology by the UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

METHODS: Conduct a systematic review to identify published studies reporting economic evaluations comparing diagnostic strategies with and without MPS in patients with chest pain and/or abnormal resting ECG. Studies published between 1984 and 2002 were included, together with two model-based evaluations submitted to NICE in 2003. Results were summarised by source of data, strategy comparison and type of patient. Quality of reported studies and methodological issues were assessed.

RESULTS: Twenty-four studies were identified: 12 'primary' studies based on analyses of prospective or retrospective data and 12 studies based on decision-analytic modelling. Twenty studies were based in the US and 4 in the UK, one of which used data from a range of European countries. Many studies reported that MPS was a cost-effective alternative to Exercise ECG (ExECG) prior to coronary angiography (CA) in patients at intermediate/high risk of CAD. Evidence for the cost-effectiveness of adding MPS after ExECG (in patient's positive on ExECG) was less conclusive. Compared with MPS, direct CA was generally not cost-effective in patients at intermediate risk, but cost-saving for patients at high risk. Studies were of variable quality; for example primary studies based on short term outcomes, and failure to present incremental comparisons. The use of CA as a gold standard for functional imaging tests which provide additional information to the degree of vessel stenosis may be problematic.

CONCLUSION: There is evidence for the cost-effectiveness of MPS in patients at intermediate risk of CAD. It would be valuable to confirm this with longer term prospective studies and improved economic modelling.

PROJECTED COST SAVINGS TO THIRD PARTY PAYERS FOR THE YEAR FOLLOWING GENERIC SIMVASTATIN AVAILABILITY IN USA

Gandhi PK1, McGhan WF2, Spooner JL3, Peterson AM4
1University of Florida-Gainesville, Gainesville, FL, USA, 2University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 3Advanced Concepts Institute, Philadelphia, PA, USA

OBJECTIVES: To estimate the drug acquisition cost savings for third payer payers (TPPs) with the availability of generic simvastatin in the United States. METHODS: A deterministic study ascertained the potential cost savings for TPPs in the year following generic simvastatin availability. The study focused on patients requiring cholesterol reduction (>30% LDL-C reduction). Annual national statin prescription sales (November...