2018 Annual Health Care

COST TRENDS HEARING

OCTOBER 17, 2018
Themes from Day One

2018 Health Care Cost Trends Hearing

Morning Presentations:
• Price as a driver of health care cost growth
• Affordability challenges for low to middle income individuals and families
• Market competition vs. government price setting
• Opportunities to unleash the promise of APMs and ACOs

Panel 1: Meeting the Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark – Top Trends in Care Delivery and Payment Reform
• Opportunities to reduce administrative costs
• Expanding alternative payment methods and aligning incentives
• Community-appropriate care
• Challenges facing small businesses and employers
• Product design and engaging consumers

Panel 2: Innovations to Enhance Timely Access to Primary and Behavioral Health Care
• Use of technology: EMRs and telemedicine
• Integration of behavioral health into primary care, and use of mobile integrated health to provide lower-cost care in the community
• Role of alternative care sites – such as urgent care centers – in providing access and supporting cost containment goals
2018 Annual Health Care COST TRENDS HEARING

OCTOBER 17, 2018

Up Next
Spotlight on State Solutions to Health Care Spending
MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

2018 HEALTH CARE COST TRENDS HEARING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018

“SPOTLIGHT ON STATE SOLUTIONS TO HEALTH CARE SPENDING”

PRESENTED BY TRISH RILEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY
TRILEY@NASHP.ORG
National Academy for State Health Policy

- Private, non-profit, bipartisan forum of and for state leaders
- Serving States for 31 years
- Cross disciplinary- Legislative and executive branches
  - AG’s
  - Insurance departments
  - Exchanges
  - Cost Commissions
  - Medicaid
  - Public Health
  - State employee health plans
  - Governor’s office
  - Legislators and staff
- Guided by cross disciplinary Steering Committees and work groups
  - Louis Gutierrez
  - David Seltz
  - Daniel Tsai
What Motivates States to Act?

- +/- 40% of healthcare in states paid by public dollars
- Balanced budget requirements
- Medicaid
- Market dynamics
  - Individual and small group
  - Increasing out of pocket exposure
- States as “Laboratories of Innovation”
  - ACA
  - Children’s health
  - Medical health parity
  - “Gag clauses”
- Public outcry
Health care costs is the top health care issue voters want 2018 candidates to talk about

While this year’s election is still a long way off, what health care issue do you most want to hear candidates talk about during their upcoming campaigns? *(open-end)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care costs</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare/Senior concerns</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repealing/Opposition to the Affordable Care Act</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve how health care is delivered</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access/decrease number of uninsured</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-payer system</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Only top six responses listed.

**SOURCE:** Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted February 15-20, 2018)
State of the State – Health Cost Reduction Strategies

• Payment and delivery system reforms
  • Medicaid
  • ACO’s / Integrated Delivery (VT all payer ACO)
  • WA Technology Assessment Program.

• Global budgets/ Sustainable growth rate
  • MA, VT, OR

• Ratesetting
  • MD

• Market oversight
  • DON/CON/COPA – MA, CT, ME, VA, TN
  • Insurance review and oversight e.g. 23 States “Surprise Billing” laws

• Transparency – cost compare websites
  • APCD’s WA, NH, ME
Cont.- State of the State – Health Cost Reduction Strategies

- **Reference pricing**
  - MT – hospital rates
  - CA -“shoppable services”

- **Consolidate state purchasing**
  - WA Health Care Authority
  - Oregon Health Authority – Purchases for 1:3; Medicaid, public employees, educators; 3.4% SGR
  - TN – episode based payment across state employees, retirees, and Medicaid
  - WI Dept. of Employee Trust Funds – allows local government and public universities opt in
Why Focus on Rx?

Drug spending has grown rapidly recently, but most of the health dollar is spent on hospitals and physicians.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of National Health Expenditure (NHE) data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, National Health Statistics Group
Why States Take on Rx?

- Rx price increases rapid and unpredictable
- Specialty drugs, biologics, immunotherapy = costs will continue to rise
- 21st Century Cures -> Fast Tracking
- State Medicaid Spending
  - 25% 2016; 14% in 2015
  - CMS predicts 6% growth 2016-2025
  - PT. D “claw back”
- No federal consensus on action despite President’s “Blueprint”
  - States can’t wait on Feds
    - E.g. 28 states enacted “gag clauses” before Congress did
- Disrupt business model
- Rx issues cross the partisan divide
NASHP’s Center for State Rx Pricing

- Laura and John Arnold Support
- Pharmacy Cost Work Group
- Model legislation, legal resources, track emerging activity, other technical assistance
  [https://nashp.org/center-for-state-rx-drug-pricing/](https://nashp.org/center-for-state-rx-drug-pricing/)
- Diverse state engagement
How Are States Approaching Rx Costs?

- 2018 Session: 171 Bills
- **28 States Passed 45 New Laws:**
  - PBMs – 92 Bills (31 laws in 20 states eg: AR, AZ, FL, KS, KY, MO, SC, CA, CT etc)
  - Transparency – 26 Bills (7 laws: OR, VT, ME, NH, CT, CA*, NV*)
  - Importation – 9 Bills (1 law: VT; Utah – Proposal due to Legislature Oct 1)
  - Price Gouging – 13 Bills (1 law: MD*)
  - Rate Setting – 3 Bills: MD, NJ, MN
  - Volume Purchasing – 4 Bills

(*= enacted in 2017)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Transparency Law</th>
<th>Requires reporting from...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California (SB 17)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut (HB 5384)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine (LD 1406)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada (SB 539)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire (HB 1418)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon (HB 4005)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont (S 92)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland’s Price Gouging Law (MD 631)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana’s PBM Laws (SB 283 &amp; HB 436)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vermont was the first state to enact transparency laws in 2016. S. 92 adds reporting from health plans and public disclosure of manufacturer reports.

Requires Reporting from:

- **Health Plans** on most costly drugs, the impact of drugs costs on premium rates, and information on PBM use

- **Manufacturers** on price increases and high launch prices.
  - Price Increases: reporting occurs on 15 drugs with WAC increases of 50% or more in past 5 years or 15% or more in previous year (must explain each factor that caused net cost increase)
  - Launch Prices: sponsors of new drugs with a WAC that exceeds the threshold for a specialty drug under Medicare Part D must report expected utilization, FDA approval designation, acquisition cost, and drug pricing plan
Manufacturer Reporting

1) Chap. 603 requires manufacturers to give **60 days advance notice of price increases** when certain thresholds are met:
   - The wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for a drug is more than $40 for a course of treatment
   - The manufacture will increase the WAC more than 16% (including the proposed and cumulative increases that occurred within the previous two calendar years)

2) If a pending price increase triggers reporting requirements for advance notice, manufacturers must also report specified financial and non-financial factors that contributed to the price increase

3) When launching new drugs that exceed $670, manufacturers must report expected utilization, acquisition cost if applicable, FDA approval designation, pricing plans, and launch price.

**Health plans** must report 1) the 25 most frequently used drugs; 2) the 25 most costly drugs by total spend; 3) the 25 drugs that contribute the most to year-over-year plan spending
PhRMA Files Suit Against CA SB 17

- In response to SB 17, PhRMA filed suit challenging the law. PhRMA claimed the law would cause market distortions, such as drug stockpiling and reduced competition. PhRMA also argued that SB 17 violates:
  - The Commerce Clause, which prohibits CA from regulating drug pricing beyond the state’s borders;
  - The First Amendment, by compelling speech through manufacturers justifying price changes; and
  - The Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause because the law is unconstitutionally vague.
PhRMA Files Suit Against CA SB 17

- U.S. District Judge Morrison England dismissed the case on August 28, 2018. He argued PhRMA failed to show that the court has jurisdiction to hear the case.

- The judge gave PhRMA 30 days to amend the complaint after finding its initial claim – that CA’s law attempted to “dictate national health policy” - without merit.

- On September 28, PhRMA refiled.
Connecticut’s transparency law is one of the most robust—it requires reporting from health plans, PBMs, and manufacturers on both price increases and launch prices.

- Requires Reporting from:
  - **Health Plans** on the most costly drugs and the impact of drugs costs on premium rates
  - **Pharmacy Benefit Managers** on aggregate amount of rebates collected from manufacturers and amount of rebates going to carriers
  - **Manufacturers** on price increases and high launch prices
    - **Price Increases**: reporting occurs on 10 outpatient drugs where 1) WAC increased by at least 20% during previous year or by 50% over past three years or 2) WAC was more than $60/month or course of treatment
      - Must report each factor that caused net cost increase, company level research & development costs
    - **Launch Prices**: ALL sponsors of new drugs or biologics must report expected utilization, clinical trial comparators, FDA approval designation, and estimated market entry date
New Hampshire and Maine enacted laws mandating further study of transparency.

New Hampshire created a commission to determine if increased transparency would lower drug costs. The commission will study:

- PBMs’ role in cost, administration, and distribution of prescription drugs.
- Amount of rebates from manufacturers for certain high cost, high utilization drugs.

Maine requires the Maine Health Data Organization to develop a plan to collect data from manufacturers related to cost and pricing of drugs, including:
Maryland’s Price Gouging Bill

- In 2017, lawmakers passed SB 631, which prohibited manufacturers and wholesale distributors from engaging in price gouging of generic drugs. This was the first price gouging legislation to become law.

- The Association for Accessible Medicines filed suit, claiming the law could hurt competition and drive up prices.

- The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals found that the law regulates trade outside Maryland’s borders and thus violates the Dormant Commerce Clause.
Maryland’s Rate Setting Bill

• SB 1023/HB 1194, based on NASHP’s rate setting model, would have created an all-payer drug rate setting program through a Drug Cost Review Commission.
  - Anticipate re-introduction in 2019

• Minnesota proposed a similar bill which failed to receive consideration, while New Jersey has a rate setting bill in the pipeline.
Wholesale Importation

- Section 804 of FDCA allows the HHS Secretary to approve a program of wholesale importation of prescription drugs that will:
  - Pose no additional risk to the public’s health and safety; and
  - Result in a significant reduction in the cost of the covered products to the American consumer

- Vermont enacted S.175, which creates a wholesale importation program to purchase high-cost drugs in Canada and make them available to Vermonter through the existing supply chain
  - Vermont’s Agency for Human Services is currently working to develop an application to HHS

- Utah’s importation bill (HB 163) passed the House, but not the Senate
  - UT’s Department of Health recently submitted a report on importation as requested state legislative leadership
In August, Louisiana issued an RFI on its plans to use a subscription-based model for Hep C medication.

Under the subscription model, Louisiana would agree to pay a fixed amount of money over several years, and a manufacturer would provide the state with all the medication the state needs.

- Payment to the manufacturer would be equal to or less than what the state currently spends to provide the medication.
- In the first years, the state will get more drugs than they pay for; as fewer people need treatment, the manufacturer would get extra money.
- Theoretically, a guaranteed fixed purchase price for a contracted period of time would allow the manufacturer to expand its product reach.
Medicaid Initiatives

Challenging – Medicaid law

- Rebates
- Best price
- Cannot limit Rx
- Tools inadequate (PDL, PA. limits etc.)

NEW YORK

- Budget cap on Rx spending
  - Target high cost Rx
  - Review value
  - Seek “supplemental/ supplemental”
  - Most cover all Rx but may:
    - Request more info on costs
    - Move rx to prior approval
    - Case study: Vertex’s Orkambi
Medicaid Alternative Payment Models

OKLAHOMA
- OK Medicaid has entered into three separate APMs directly w/ drug manufacturers (first-in-nation)
- State and manufacturer agree upon outcome(s) to measure
- Additional rebates are based on performance against agreed-upon measure
- Example: As adherence targets are met- which result in greater usage, sales and outcomes- the price the state pays for the drug decreases

COLORADO
- Colorado is surveying physicians to determine their actual acquisition cost (AAC) for physician administered drugs (PADs)
- Results will be used to design a more transparent APM based on average acquisition cost (2019)
Next Steps

• States testing approaches to inform Federal debate
  ○ 28 Politically diverse states have enacted “gag clauses” before Congress acted
eg: MS, TX, KY, IN, GA, CO, WVA, VT, NH
  ○ 23 States have enacted “surprise billing” laws – Sen. Cassidy has proposed
bipartisan draft legislation – no Congressional action yet

• New England states actively engaged on Rx issues

• NASHP eager to work with MA to push Rx pricing reforms
Examination of Health Care Cost Trends and Cost Drivers Pursuant to G.L. c. 12C, § 17

October 17, 2018

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MAURA HEALEY ONE ASHBURTON PLACE BOSTON, MA 02108
AGO Cost Trends Examinations

• Authority to conduct examinations:
  – G.L. c. 12, § 11N to monitor trends in the health care market.
  – G.L. c. 12C, § 17 to issue subpoenas for documents, interrogatory responses, and testimony under oath related to health care costs and cost trends.

• Findings and reports issued since 2010.

• This examination focuses on variation in payment methodologies for health care services in the commercial market.

© 2018 Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
Questions Presented

I. Are payment methods for health care services consistent across insurers and providers in the commercial market?

II. What are the costs associated with administering complex and varied health care payment methods?

III. How is this payment system a barrier to price comparisons for market participants?
Hospital Outpatient Payment: Significant Complexity and Variation

Hospital Outpatient Fee Schedules Do Not Share A Consistent Structure Across Payers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Payer 1</th>
<th>Payer 2</th>
<th>Payer 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of outpatient billing service categories</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate multipliers negotiated by outpatient billing service category?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Even Where Service Categories Align, Negotiations Over Fee Schedules Result In Significant Differences in Relative Price Across Services at a Single Hospital

Hospital Rate Multipliers for Three Outpatient Services for One Massachusetts Payer (2018)
Outpatient Payment Variation: Observation Services Case Study

**Payer 1**
Six different time-based payment structures (each for different time ranges)

**Payer 2**
Negotiated base rate multiplied by hours of observation and a negotiated multiplier

**Payer 3**
24-hour all-inclusive rate
Hospital Inpatient Payment Is Somewhat More Standardized Across Big Three Payers, But Variation Exists Across State

Percent of Payers’ Massachusetts Hospital Contracts that Use DRG, Percent of Charges, and Per Diem for Inpatient Payment

© 2018 Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
Questions Presented

I. Are payment methods for health care services consistent across insurers and providers in the commercial market?

II. What are the costs associated with administering complex and varied health care payment methods?

III. How is this payment system a barrier to price comparisons for market participants?
Recent national studies have documented the high costs of administrative complexity in health care.

- 25% of hospital costs are administrative.
- For every 10 MDs, there are 7 FTEs engaged in billing activities.
- Growth of billing costs from 14% in 2009 to 17% in 2014.
- Administrative costs are a major driver in the difference in overall cost between the US and other countries.
- Reducing US spending for hospital administration to that of Canada or Scotland would have saved ~$158 billion in 2011 dollars.
- Higher administrative costs do not appear to be connected to higher quality care.
Questions Presented

I. Are payment methods for health care services consistent across insurers and providers in the commercial market?

II. What are the costs associated with administering complex and varied health care payment methods?

III. How is this payment system a barrier to price comparisons for market participants?
Comparing Prices Across Providers Is Challenging

Hospital Rate Multipliers for Three Outpatient Services for One Massachusetts Payer (2018)
Comparing Prices Across Providers Is Challenging for Consumers

Hospital Surgical Day Care and High-Tech Radiology Prices by Tier for One Massachusetts Payer (2018)
Comparing Prices Across Payers Is Challenging for Employers and Referring Providers

Hospital High-Tech Radiology Prices for Two Massachusetts Payers (2018)
Recommendations

1. Study further the administrative costs associated with current complex and varied approaches to payment for health care services with the goal of developing strategies to reduce these costs.

2. Reduce complexity and explore increasing standardization where appropriate in the methods for determining health care payment rates to reduce the cost of claims and contract administration and facilitate “apples-to-apples” price comparisons.

3. Establish real-time, service-level price transparency for employers, consumers, policymakers, and providers.
2018 Annual Health Care

COST TRENDS HEARING

OCTOBER 17, 2018

Up Next
Reaction Panel 3: Strategies to Address Pharmaceutical Spending Growth
For commercial payers, pharmacy spending growth exceeds medical growth over recent years

3 year cumulative spending growth per member per month for commercial payers (full claims), 2015 – 2017

- Medical spending (without pharmacy): 7.8%
- Pharmacy spending, gross: 17.5%
- Pharmacy spending, net of rebates: 10.0%

Net of rebates, prescription drug spending (pharmacy only) represented 17% of health care spending for commercial payers in 2017

Source: HPC analysis of the Center for Health Information and Analysis THCE and TME Databooks (MA 2014-2017)
The complexity of the drug distribution and sales chain illustrates the need for transparency and action at many levels

Flow of drug products, services, and funds for drugs purchased in a retail setting*

Multiple pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) contracting with different health plans for a variety of functions adds to the complexity in MA

Source: HPC analysis of pre-filed testimony pursuant to the 2018 Annual Cost Trends Hearing
Drug spending a top concern for payers and providers

In pre-filed testimony (PFT), most payers (12 of 14) and half of providers (17 of 35) listed rising pharmaceutical costs as a top area of concern for the state’s ability to meet the cost growth benchmark, with an emphasis on prices including:

- High prices for new, specialty drugs
- Price increases for existing drugs

Payers and providers recommended numerous strategies to contain cost growth, such as:

- Maximize high-value, low cost drugs through formulary design, prior authorization requirement for certain high-cost drugs
- Greater availability of biosimilars and generic specialty drugs
- Increasing competition and transparency from manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers, e.g., notice and rationale for price increases
- Enhancing government oversight and monitoring of market tactics: “evergreening”, “pay-for-delay”, “product hopping”
- Promote clinical guidance on appropriate prescribing and best practices for medication adherence and medication reconciliation for complex patients

Source: HPC analysis of pre-filed testimony pursuant to the 2018 Annual Cost Trends Hearing
MassHealth Rx spending has grown $900M over 5 years

MassHealth pharmacy spend
$ Millions

MassHealth Pharmacy Spend

3.6% Growth Benchmark

October 17, 2018
MassHealth has emerged as a national leader in pharmacy cost management

- Aggressive rebate negotiations has led to +$320M annually
- Established preferred drug list
- Leveraged purchasing power to expand rebates

Rebate level in 2014: 34%
Rebate level in 2018: 51%

+$320M annually
The Positive Effect of Competition: Hepatitis C drug example

MassHealth Hep C net spend per utilizer & utilizers
$ spend, # utilizers

Drug Launches

No competition
GILEAD (1)

Some competition
GILEAD (2), abbvie (1), MERCK (1)

High competition
GILEAD (3), abbvie (2), MERCK (1)

After rebate spend per utilizer

$70K  $51K  $46K  $38K  $18K

# utilizers

760  2,200  2,600  4,300  3,600

2014  2015  2016  2017  2018
Reaction Panel 3
Strategies to Address Pharmaceutical Spending Growth
Reaction Panel 3: Strategies to Address Pharmaceutical Spending Growth

Panelists

Ms. Sarah Emond, Executive VP and COO
Dr. Rochelle Henderson, VP of Research
Ms. Amy Rosenthal, Executive Director
Mr. Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth
Ms. Leslie Wood, Deputy VP for State Policy

Institute for Clinical and Economic Review
Express Scripts, Inc.
Health Care For All
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
PhRMA

Goals

Building off the preceding expert presentation, the goal of this panel is to discuss emerging policies and strategies that can be implemented at the state level to promote greater affordability and value in pharmaceutical spending. Focus areas will include: enhancing the transparency of pharmaceutical prices, promoting value-based contracting and pricing, establishing high-value formularies, improving consumer affordability, supporting innovation, and understanding the role of pharmacy benefit managers.
2018 Annual Health Care
COST TRENDS HEARING
OCTOBER 17, 2018

Up Next
Spotlight on Impact of Nurse Staffing Ratios
Mandated Nurse-to-Patient Staffing Ratios in Massachusetts: Analysis of Potential Cost Impact

Dr. David Auerbach
Director of Research and Cost Trends, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

Dr. Joanne Spetz
Professor, Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
HPC’s oversight authority and role in analyzing mandated nurse staffing ratios

- The HPC was established to oversee the Commonwealth’s health care delivery and payment system and monitor growth in health care spending against the cost growth benchmark; it has a specific statutory responsibility to examine factors that contribute to cost growth within the Commonwealth’s health care system as part of the Annual Cost Trends Hearing.

- In 2018 Pre-filed Cost Trends Hearing testimony, a majority of stakeholders identified proposed mandatory nurse staffing ratios as a top area of concern regarding the Commonwealth’s ability to meet the health care cost growth benchmark.

- As an independent agency principally focused on containing health care costs, the HPC conducted an objective, data-driven cost impact analysis of mandated nurse staffing ratios to further inform continuing policy discussions on the matter.

- The HPC presented its research and cost impact analysis at the HPC’s Market Oversight and Transparency Committee Meeting on October 3, 2018.

- Today, the HPC is presenting an abridged version of its research and analysis in advance of Reaction Panel 4: Impact of Nurse Staffing Ratios on Cost, Quality, and Access.

Overview of HPC research and cost impact analysis

This research and analysis includes:

- Summary of the proposed initiative petition and comparison to the California law and regulation
- Summary of California’s experience with mandated staffing ratios
- Comparison of CA and MA hospitals on quality measure performance
- Background on the RN workforce in MA
- Methodology and analysis of cost impact, including the breakdown of additional RNs required and the cost impact for hospitals, freestanding psychiatric/SUD hospitals, other providers, and the Commonwealth
- Additional costs not included in the cost impact analysis, including potential impact on emergency departments
- Potential cost savings
- Potential sources for additional RNs required and discussion of MA labor market
- Implications for statewide health care spending

The description of the proposed initiative and assumptions made in developing the cost estimate are for research purposes only. Nothing in this research presentation should be construed to be an interpretation by the Health Policy Commission of the proposed initiative which, should it become law, requires development of regulation pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A.
David Auerbach, Ph.D., and Joanne Spetz, Ph.D., led the HPC’s research and analysis.

**Dr. David Auerbach**, Director for Research and Cost Trends at the Health Policy Commission, is a health economist whose work has spanned a number of focus areas, including the health care workforce. Dr. Auerbach has specialized in, and is a nationally-recognized expert on the Registered Nurse workforce including advanced practice nurses.

**Dr. Joanne Spetz** is a Professor at the Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco. Her fields of specialty include economics of the health care workforce, shortages and supply of registered nurses, and organization and quality of the hospital industry. Dr. Spetz is an Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. The HPC engaged the University of California, San Francisco in mid-August 2018 in furtherance of its research agenda with respect to health care workforce issues.
Comparison of CA law and MA proposed initiative

- **California** is the only state with mandated nurse staffing ratios in all hospital units
  - The California legislature passed a law in 1999 that was implemented beginning in 2004

- There are a **number of important differences** between California’s law and regulation and the proposed initiative in Massachusetts, including in the following areas:
  - Implementation process/method for determining ratios
  - Scope and level of ratios
  - Substitution of licensed nursing personnel to meet the ratios
  - Consideration of non-RN healthcare workforce
  - Authorization for waivers and scope of exemptions for emergencies
  - Enforcement
Summary of California’s experience with mandated staffing ratios

- In the 14 years since mandated nurse staffing ratios in California were implemented, many studies have been published on the impact of the law and subsequent regulation.

- Below are four key takeaways from California’s experience and the resulting literature following implementation of the mandated staffing ratios:

  1. There was a significant increase in nurse staffing in California hospitals post-implementation of ratios.

  2. There was a moderate effect on RN wages post-implementation of ratios.

  3. There was no systematic improvement in patient outcomes post-implementation of ratios.

  4. There has been no comprehensive, retrospective analysis of implementation costs.

As of 2016, Massachusetts had higher hospital RN staffing levels (FTEs per 1,000 inpatient days) than California and the U.S.

American Hospital Association (2016). Data include all non-federal hospitals. Staffing levels include only registered nurses employed at the hospitals included in the sample.
Massachusetts hospitals performed better than California hospitals on 5 of 6 nursing-sensitive quality measures reviewed.

Note: A lower value indicates better performance on these measures, and a value less than 1.0 indicates that there were fewer events than expected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>MA</th>
<th>CA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>1.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central venous catheter-related bloodstream infections (CLABSI)</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital-onset CD infection</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital-onset meticillin-resistant MRSA bacteremia</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical site infections following colon surgery</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilator-associated events (VAE)</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality/National Healthcare Safety Network (2015). The “Standardized Infection Ratio” is a measure of observed over expected hospital-acquired infections and adjusts for patient-level factors that contribute to hospital-acquired infection risk. A ratio of less than 1.0 indicates that there were fewer events than expected.
Massachusetts and California perform similarly on 3 additional nursing-sensitive quality measures covering states’ Medicare populations

---

**Events per 1,000**

- Pressure Ulcer Rate (PSI-3)
  - MA: 0.28
  - CA: 0.26

- In-hospital Fall with Hip Fracture Rate (PSI-8)
  - MA: 0.11
  - CA: 0.11

---

**Composite index performance**

- Patient Safety and Adverse Events Composite (PSI-90)
  - MA: 0.95
  - CA: 0.96

---

*Note: A lower value indicates better performance on these measures.*

---

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Hospital Compare, 2017. PSI-3 and PSI-8 are expressed as events are per 1,000 patients and are computed as the median value among each state's hospitals. Composite indicator “PSI-90” includes PSI 3, 6, 8-15 and is an index such that values below 1.0 indicate better performance than expected given a hospital's patient mix.
Summary of HPC cost impact analysis methodology

The HPC developed the following methodology for the analysis:

- **Examined FY2017 staffing levels** in MA hospitals, using publicly available PatientCareLink data\(^1\)
  - Units included in HPC analysis: medical, surgical, psychiatric/behavioral health, pediatrics, step-down, rehabilitation, neonate intermediate care, labor/delivery, maternal child care, post-anesthesia care, operating room
  - For additional information about units not included, see slide on data limitations and additional costs

- **Calculated expected number of additional RNs required** to meet the mandated ratios in all units according to the proposed initiative, as follows:
  - Analyzed FY2017 staffing reports by hospital unit, by shift and compared average RN staffing to the ratios in the proposed initiative; and
  - Adjusted estimated number of additional RNs needed to comply with the “at all times” mandate\(^2\)

- **Calculated potential impact on psychiatric/SUD hospitals**

- **Estimated impact on RN wages**

- **Considered additional costs** associated with the proposed initiative (e.g., acuity tool costs), as well as opportunities for cost savings

As detailed in the following slides, the HPC presents the results of its cost impact analysis as **Analysis A** and **Analysis B**.

---

\(^1\)PatientCareLink.org is a joint venture of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA), Organization of Nurse Leaders of MA, RI, NH, CT, VT (ONL), Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts (HCA) and Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI). See [www.patientcarelink.org](http://www.patientcarelink.org). Staffing data for certain units not included in PatientCareLink were made available to the HPC by the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association.

\(^2\)Accounts for RN coverage required in a variety of circumstances, such as federally mandated meal breaks, patient census variability (i.e., surges in patient flow), RN time off the unit, and other instances where coverage is needed to comply with the “at all times” mandate in the proposed initiative.
Estimated additional RNs required for compliance with mandated levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Results</th>
<th>Difference Between Average Staffing and Proposed Ratios</th>
<th>Analysis A</th>
<th>Analysis B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of all shifts that would be required to increase RN staffing to meet mandate</td>
<td>34% (726 of 2,143 shifts)</td>
<td>46% (980 of 2,143 shifts)</td>
<td>54% (1,156 of 2,143 shifts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional full-time equivalent RN staff required to meet mandate (% RN workforce increase)</td>
<td>1,144 (8% more RNs)</td>
<td>1,809 (12% more RNs)</td>
<td>2,624 (17% more RNs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional full-time equivalent RN staff required to meet mandate in psychiatric/substance use disorder hospitals</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>477</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total additional RNs required</td>
<td>2,286 (15% more RNs)</td>
<td>3,101 (20% more RNs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increase in RNs required to meet the mandate would be greatest in community hospitals and night shifts.

The charts on this slide do not reflect data on additional RNs required in psychiatric/substance use disorder hospitals.
Number of RNs required to meet the mandate would be greatest in Medical/Surgical units

Supporting figures are from Analysis A; n=1,809 additional RNs needed across all service types. 837 FTE RNs are exactly 46.3% of the workforce deficit overall. This chart does not reflect data on additional RNs required in psychiatric/substance use disorder hospitals.
Estimated impact on RN wages

- The required increase in RNs hospital staff would likely increase the demand for RNs in Massachusetts, leading to an increase in RN earnings over time.

- Researchers of the impacts of mandated nurse staffing ratios in California found that wages for all RNs in the state rose faster during the period of implementation than they did in other states at the same time using 5 separate data sources. The difference ranged from 0 to 8% and averaged approximately 4%.

- The impacts could be larger in Massachusetts due to, for example: stricter ratios, monetary penalties, and the prohibition on using other licensed nursing staff to meet the ratios.

- Based on California literature, HPC estimated wage increases for all RNs in MA:
  - 4% in Analysis A
  - 6% in Analysis B

- RN wage increases for existing RNs resulting from mandated nurse staffing ratios would likely not occur immediately (e.g., due to pre-existing labor contracts).

---

The HPC’s analysis of mandated nurse staffing ratios estimates $676 to $949 million in annual increased costs once fully implemented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Analysis A</th>
<th>Analysis B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs to Hospitals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acute Care Hospitals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional RNs required¹</td>
<td>$256 million</td>
<td>$379 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage increase for existing RNs</td>
<td>$184 million</td>
<td>$276 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acuity tools (ongoing costs)²</td>
<td>$26 million</td>
<td>$26 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Psychiatric/Substance Use Disorder Hospitals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional RNs required¹</td>
<td>$48 million</td>
<td>$51 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage increase for existing RNs</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs to Other (Non-Hospital) Providers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage increase for existing RNs</td>
<td>$93 million</td>
<td>$140 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs to the Commonwealth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation at state-operated hospitals³</td>
<td>$67.8 million</td>
<td>$74.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL COSTS</strong></td>
<td>$676 million</td>
<td>$949 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimated costs are likely to be conservative as they do not include any costs related to implementation in emergency departments, observation units, and outpatient departments, as well as other one-time costs. See next slide for additional information.

¹The estimated cost for each new nurse is $133,285 to $138,765. This includes both the estimated salary (with an estimated wage increase of 4%-6%) and the estimated cost of benefits.
²Hospitals would incur certain costs associated with acuity tools on an ongoing basis (e.g., maintenance), while other costs are likely to be one-time costs (see next slide). Figure does not include estimated costs for psychiatric/SUD hospitals.
³Secretary of the Commonwealth, Massachusetts Information for Voters, 2018 Ballot Questions, State Election, Tuesday, November 6, 2018.
The estimated costs are likely to be conservative due to data limitations for additional units and other anticipated costs

**Ongoing annual costs not included:**
- Increased RN staffing costs from hospital units not included in the analysis:
  - Emergency departments (see next two slides)
  - Outpatient departments
  - Observation units
- Increased RN staffing costs to non-acute hospitals *
- State agency implementation costs
- Penalties for non-compliance

**One-time costs not included:**
- Acuity tool costs
  - In addition to ongoing costs (see previous slide), hospitals would incur costs on a one-time basis (e.g., purchasing, initial development, and implementation costs)
  - HPC estimates $57.9 million in one-time acuity tool costs for acute care hospitals
- Turnover costs
  - Including recruitment, onboarding, and training
  - Recent literature suggests the range of average turnover costs could be $38,000 to $61,100 per bedside RN
  - For purposes of illustration, turnover of 1,000 RNs would cost $49.5 million

---

*Due to ambiguity about the application of the proposed initiative to certain non-acute hospitals (e.g., institutional rehabilitation facilities, long term care hospitals), these units are not included in the HPC’s current cost impact analysis.

1Does not include one-time acuity tool costs for psychiatric/SUD hospitals.  
3Calculated using the average cost of turnover for a bedside RN of $49,500, as reported in the National Health Care Retention & RN Staffing Report (see note 2).
The proposed initiative includes **mandated ratios in emergency departments (EDs) at all times** that range from 1:1 to 1:5 based on patient acuity.

The HPC was **unable to include EDs in its cost impact analysis** due to significant data limitations, including the fact that publicly available data on ED staffing lacks information on patient acuity or patient time spent in the ED\(^1\)

While data limitations preclude the HPC from modeling the anticipated impact on EDs using its established methodology, the HPC has **analyzed the publicly available ED staffing data to the extent possible** and determined the following:

- Data represent 3,193 FTE RNs working in 77 ED units in acute hospitals
- The worked hours per patient visit for RNs ranges from 1.38 (10\(^{th}\) percentile) to 2.28 (90\(^{th}\) percentile)
- For purposes of illustration, a range of 479-639 additional FTE RNs in Massachusetts EDs (15-20% of 3,193 RNs) would cost $79 million to $110 million\(^2\) annually

---

\(^1\)These data are publicly available on [www.PatientCareLink.org](http://www.PatientCareLink.org).

\(^2\)The workforce percentages needed used in this example correspond with the average additional workforce percentage needed in Analysis A and Analysis B, see technical appendix in the HPC’s full research presentation, available at [https://www.mass.gov/doc/presentation-analysis-of-potential-cost-impact-of-mandated-nurse-to-patient-staffing-ratios](https://www.mass.gov/doc/presentation-analysis-of-potential-cost-impact-of-mandated-nurse-to-patient-staffing-ratios). Other key parameters (estimated wage, benefits for newly hired RNs, and the wage impact across all existing RNs and new RNs) also correspond directly to figures used in other examples with Analysis A and B.
Mandated ratios would impact EDs, including but not limited to the potential for significant impacts on:

- Access to emergency care
- Wait times
- Patient flow
- Boarding
- Ambulance diversion

The HPC solicited additional information from stakeholders to further inform discussions around the potential impact of mandated ratios in Massachusetts EDs:

- The Massachusetts Nurses Association provided the HPC with a *Journal of Emergency Nursing* study (2017) that found a relationship between nurse staffing and time to diagnostic evaluation in Massachusetts EDs
- The Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association provided the HPC with a report published by the Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians and Emergency Nurses Association (September 2018), which estimated an annual statewide cost for additional nurse staffing needed to comply with the mandate

---


Potential cost savings

- Researchers estimate that an increase in RN staffing may be associated with savings from reduced hospital length of stay and reduced adverse events\(^1\)
  - \(~$15,000\) savings per additional FTE RN hired

- Extrapolating from this research, the HPC calculated a range of **estimated potential savings of $34 to $47 million** with the hiring of additional RNs
  - However, it is uncertain if RN staffing increases from current MA staffing levels would result in these savings

- Other savings could be realized due to reduced RN turnover\(^2\) and workforce injuries\(^3\)

---
Hospitals would have to recruit additional RNs to meet the mandate from various sources

2,286 – 3,101 estimated additional RNs required

- RNs working in other hospitals in MA
- RNs working in non-hospital care settings in MA
- New RN graduates
- Temporary/traveling RNs
- RNs from out of state
- RNs from other countries
- Part-time RNs who convert to full-time RNs
- RNs who delay retirement
Implications for statewide health care spending

- If the proposed initiative becomes law, the increased costs to hospitals may result in impacts such as:
  - Reductions in hospital margins or assets\(^1\)
  - Reduced capital investments
  - Closure of unprofitable (and/or other) service lines
  - Reductions in non-health care workforce staffing levels

- These costs could also lead to higher commercial prices for hospital care, potentially leading to higher premiums

- Overall, the higher estimated annual costs of $676 million to $949 million represent:\(^2\)
  - 1.1 to 1.6% of total health care expenditures in Massachusetts in 2017 as measured for the purposes of performance against the health care cost growth benchmark; and
  - 2.4% to 3.5% of total hospital spending

---


\(^2\) Total health care spending based on total estimated costs in Analyses A and B divided by total health care expenditures (THCE) as reported by the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) in CHIA’s 2018 Annual Report. Percentage of hospital spending includes acute and psychiatric hospital costs in Analyses A and B divided by total hospital spending as reported in CHIA’s 2018 Annual Report.
Reaction Panel 4
Impact of Nurse Staffing Ratios on Cost, Quality, and Access
Reaction Panel 4: Impact of Nurse Staffing Ratios on Cost, Quality and Access

Panelists

Ms. Vicki Bermudez, Regulatory Policy Specialist
Ms. Deborah Devaux, Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Nancy Gaden, Senior VP and Chief Nursing Officer
Dr. Judith Shindul-Rothschild, Associate Professor
Dr. Joanne Spetz, Professor

California Nurses Association
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Boston Medical Center
Connell School of Nursing, Boston College
Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, SF

Goals

Building off the preceding expert presentation, the goal of this panel is to discuss the implications of mandated nurse staffing ratios for health care spending in the Commonwealth. Topics will include evidence and experience of implementing hospital nurse staffing ratios in California, and the potential impact on health care cost, quality, and access in Massachusetts.
2018 Annual Health Care
COST TRENDS HEARING
OCTOBER 17, 2018
Thank You!