BACKGROUND

• Health plan management is rapidly evolving and tools are being incorporated into practice management for administering health care. This poster covers 4 critical areas of contemporary interest:
  o The ACA (affordable care act):
    - Has been under fire with payers making business decisions regarding continuation or elimination of ACA coverage
    - Deductibles and coverage vary by plan and payer
    - Has led payers to speculate about the Trump administration’s impact on access, quality and costs
  o Digital technologies, including web and PDA (personal digital assistant) applications continue to grow within patient management, and various services. Budget impacts are expected as these technologies evolve and are adapted
  o Value Based Contracting (VBC) is evolving for various disease and service categories with growth predicted in this technique
  o Cost Effectiveness Research (CER) utilization has grown in volume and application as better evidence has evolved

OBJECTIVES

• To gain a better understanding of health plan management and contemporary tools

METHODS

• An online, interactive survey was developed with 69 questions and topics included:
  o Material or financial incentives were not offered for completion of the survey
  o Participation in affordable care act (ACA) plans and expected family deductibles
  o Predictions on the impact of the Trump administration regarding healthcare access, quality and costs
  o The growing use and availability of digital technologies and their budget impact
  o Use and access to Value Based Contracting (VBC)
  o Cost Effectiveness Research (CER) uptake and use
  o Access to information and use of Evidence Based Medicine (EBM)

• Invitations to participate were sent to Medical and Pharmacy Directors working with US health plans, PBMs, and insurers from the TPG-NPRT database in November 2017
• Survey invitations were received and reviewed by 247 managed care decision makers

RESULTS

• Most advisors expect their plans to continue to offer ACA-based plans in the future (Figure 1) with family deductibles shown in Figure 2
• The majority of advisors believe Trump Administration policies (Figure 3) will:
  - Decrease healthcare access
  - Increase healthcare costs
  - Either decrease of have no change on healthcare quality or prescription drug access
• In addition to covering traditional medical care and prescription drugs, health plans cover a variety of non-medical therapies (Figure 4)

CONCLUSIONS

• With the rapidly shifting health care marketplace, politics and regulation are affecting payers’ willingness to participate in the ACA
• Health plan coverage continues to cover most therapies. Medical Marijuana was mentioned as an alternative medicine consideration and will grow as FDA approved therapies enter the marketplace
• Digital Health tools offer more information and insights into care and are generally expected to be budget neutral
• Value based contracting is growing but slower than expected, 45% of respondents do not expect this to increase dramatically
• CER and EBM continues as a promising tool but the quality of evidence still demands improvement

REFERENCES

Citation: Brook RA, Carlisle JA, Smeeding JE. Survey Results of Contemporary US Health Plan Policies – Affordable Care Act (ACA), Digital Technologies, Value Based Contracting (VBC) and Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), Value Health 2018;21(Suppl 1). Available at www.TPG-NPRT.com

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Figure 1: % Participation in ACA

Figure 2: ACA Family Deductibles

Figure 3: Predicted Impact of Trump Administration Policies

Figure 4: Coverage of Non-Medical Therapies

Figure 5: Digital Technology Use

Figure 6: Commonly Used Digital Applications

Figure 7: Progress and Use of EBM and CER

Figure 8: CER Applications