A3
HEALTH ECONOMICS TRACK
Applications of Health Economics Research

Session Leader: Debra P. Ritzwoller, PhD, Kaiser Permanente Colorado

The **panelists** and their **topics** are:

"Inpatient Utilization Pre and Post Smoking: A Multi-site Study"
Paul Fishman, PhD, Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound

"Un-modeling Cancer Cost Effectiveness: A CRN Proposal"
Mike Maciosek, PhD, HealthPartners Research Foundation

"Improving HMO Primary Care Productivity Through Use of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners"
Doug Roblin, PhD, Kaiser Permanente Georgia

"Creating Standard Outpatient Cost Measures Across Integrated Health Care Delivery Systems: The Experience of the Cancer Research Network"
Debra P. Ritzwoller, PhD, Kaiser Permanente Colorado

Background

Over the past several decades, HMOs have contributed substantially to health services research. Much of that research has addressed issues related to disease epidemiology and practice variation, particularly medical services utilization and quality of care. Applications of health economics research have principally addressed questions related to health care market dynamics, cost effectiveness analyses, or actuarial methods.

Recent discussions of the HMO "value proposition" have opened many new opportunities for health economics research. Design and implementation of disease management programs and the evaluation of other service delivery models require methodologically sound research to inform an optimal choice among alternative organizational strategies. This session's speakers will discuss four applications of health economics research to develop evidence-based strategies for improving value of an HMO to its members.

Session Objectives

1. Participants will be aware of the scope of health economics research that can be conducted in HMOs.
2. Participants will understand the types, limitations, and strengths of HMO databases that can be adapted to health economics research.
3. Participants will appreciate the potential applications of health economics research for optimizing HMO service delivery systems.