CASE STUDY: ICER’s Biased Assessment Ignores the Value of New Medicines Improving Patient Productivity

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review’s (ICER) subjective decision to exclude productivity benefits shows how its approach skews results to put payer needs over patients.

THE FACTS

CGRP inhibitors are the first treatments specifically developed to prevent migraines, and have been shown to positively impact patients’ productivity. The results of ICER’s assessment of CGRP inhibitors fail to account for productivity gains from reduced migraines. ICER’s decision highlights their bias in choosing payer needs over the needs of patients.

Migraine’s Impact on Productivity is Significant

Among individuals 50 and younger, migraines are the third leading cause of disability and affect 1 in 6 Americans. An estimated 68 percent of migraines result in lost productivity. As a result, American employers lose more than $13 billion each year.

“I WAS FORCED TO STOP WORKING AT AGE 32, THEREBY SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING INCOME EARNINGS... MY QUALITY OF LIFE DESERVES TO BE VALUED HIGHLY.”

KATIE
CHRONIC MIGRAINE PATIENT

ICER’s Result Ignores Treatments’ Impact on Patient Productivity

ICER acknowledges that the inclusion of productivity would change the results of its assessment, but still fails to incorporate productivity into their final price recommendations for CGRP inhibitors. The conscious decision to ignore meaningful outcomes brings ICER even further away from the evidence-based analyses they claim to conduct.

“THE [ICER VALUE ASSESSMENT] WILL NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE IMMENSE INDIRECT COSTS AND SOCIETAL BURDEN OF MIGRAINE. DIRECT [COSTS] ARE FAR EXCEEDED BY INDIRECT COSTS TO EMPLOYERS.”

HEADACHE AND MIGRAINE POLICY FORUM

ICER’s Assessment Deviates from Expert Consensus

Thought-leaders in the field agree productivity gains should be considered and incorporated into assessments of treatments’ value. ICER’s failure to do so misaligns them with these best practices.

“VALUE FRAMEWORKS...THAT DO NOT CONSIDER THE FULL COSTS AND BENEFITS OF A TREATMENT NECESSARILY RESULT IN DECISIONS THAT ARE DISTORTED FROM A SOCIETAL WELFARE PERSPECTIVE.”

DR. PETER NEUMANN
ISPOR SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON VALUE ASSESSMENT

THE BOTTOM LINE

Value assessments should incorporate outcomes that are important to society, patients and employers. ICER assessments fall short of the mark, creating a risk that they will be misused to restrict patients and physicians in choosing the treatments that best meet patients’ needs.

Learn more at PhRMA.org/value-collaborative