Center for Translational & Policy Research on Precision Medicine

TRANSPERS Program on Coverage and Reimbursement: Understanding Payer Decision-Making

Insurance coverage is critical for sustained implementation of precision medicine into clinical practice. How payers decide on coverage informs research, evidence generation, and clinical adoption of new genomic technologies. This is especially relevant in a multi-payer health care system, such as in the U.S., where inconsistency of decision-making across payers contributes to variable insurance coverage and unequal access to new genomic technologies.

There is a **gap in understanding** what factors and considerations impact payers' decision-making, what evidence is needed, and how these factors vary across payers and testing modalities. Additionally, there is a **lack of forums** to explore payer decision-making objectively. While companies engage payers in advisory boards, these boards tend to serve commercial interests, rather than independent research.

To address this, we assembled the **UCSF TRANSPERS Payer Advisory Board** in 2007. Since then, we have conducted a unique research program in collaboration with the Board. Board members represent key stakeholders including:

- Leading national and regional private insurer plans
- Business groups representing large, self-insured employers
- Laboratory benefit management companies
- Experts in public payer policies

Our research program is conducted using **two methods**:

- Individual interview studies with Board members on their perspectives relevant to coverage decision-making for emerging technologies and tests
- Board roundtables featuring group discussions

TRANSPERS

Launched in 2008, the Center for Translational and Policy Research on Precision Medicine (TRANSPERS) at the University of California, San Francisco is a first-of-its-kind research center dedicated to developing evidence-based information for patients, providers, industry, researchers, and policymakers to objectively assess how personalized medicine can be most beneficial and efficient in improving health outcomes. The TRANSPERS Center has been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and several foundations.

Accomplishments

Since the founding of the Board, our research has resulted in numerous peer-reviewed publications in major journals, as well as reports. Our work has been widely cited and used by researchers, payers, industry, organizations, and venture capital firms. Our peer-reviewed publications have included studies on coverage for genetic testing in cancer, pediatrics, and genome sequencing and we are continuing work on cutting-edge genomic technologies as they emerge. For example, our 2020 paper in Genetics in Medicine on perspectives of U.S. private payers on insurance coverage for pediatric and prenatal exome sequencing was among their top 15% articles cited that year. For more information: https://pharm.ucsf.edu/transpers/grants-programs/evidence-reimbursement

TRANSPERS Center, UCSF | 490 Illinois Street, 3rd Floor, Box 0613, San Francisco, CA 94143
T: 415.502.4025 | transpersinfo@ucsf.edu | https://pharm.ucsf.edu/transpers