

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) believes that it is essential that a pharmacist be appointed to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee responsible for developing the IOM's recommendations on the National Priorities for Comparative Effectiveness Research in Health Care. Many of the top priorities for comparative effectiveness research will be in the area of medications. A pharmacist with advance training and experience in the evaluation of clinical research and in the area of pharmacoeconomics will bring a critical perspective that the committee is currently lacking.

The Academy believes it is essential to appoint a pharmacist who has focused on the scope and relevance of the data that clinicians and patients need to assess in order to make informed health care decisions. The individual should be aware of the current gaps in the data now available. A pharmacist with broad clinical and administrative experience and expertise with respect to medication use and pharmacy benefit management would be the ideal addition to the proposed committee to identify national priorities for comparative effectiveness research.

AMCP is a national professional association of pharmacists who have responsibility for managing prescription drug benefits in the private sector for health plans and prescription benefit management companies (PBMs) and in the public sector through such agencies as the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense and state Medicaid programs. Our 5,700 members provide comprehensive services to the over 200 million Americans served by managed care organizations. They are responsible for implementing a broad and diversified range of clinical, quality-oriented services and strategies whose objective is to assure that individual patients receive the appropriate drug at the right time in a convenient, cost-effective manner.

The Academy stands ready to suggest individuals with the background necessary to assist with the important work necessary to develop robust recommendations on the national priorities for comparative effectiveness. For more information, please contact Judy Cahill, AMCP Executive Director, at (703) 683-8416 or jcahill@amcp.org.