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Top 10 Emerging Health Care Trends Report Finds Opportunities to Achieve Triple Aim of Health Reform

BOSTON, MASS. – The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation today released “Ahead of the Curve: Top 10 Emerging Health Care Trends – Implications for Patients, Providers, Payers and Pharmaceuticals.” The report caps a six-month research initiative involving a targeted literature review and an advisory panel composed of health care thought leaders from academia, industry, managed care, government and patient advocacy.

With support from Pfizer, Inc., the “Ahead of the Curve” initiative assessed the impact of emerging trends on health care delivery and managed care pharmacy practices. The 40-page report outlines the top 10 trends in health care and their effect on health system efforts—including managed care pharmacy’s—to achieve the Triple Aim of health reform: Improvements in patient satisfaction and quality of care, population health and affordability.

“Ahead of the Curve’ offers a timely, well-thought-out assessment of the major changes in our health care system over the next five years” said Edith A. Rosato, RPh, IOM, chairman of the AMCP Foundation Board of Trustees and CEO of AMCP. “It identifies key elements of strategies for how the players in our health system, from health plans, employers and governments to providers, patients and drug companies, can harness these 10 new and emerging trends to achieve the Triple Aim of health reform.”

“In this fast paced environment, it is critical to understand the shifting landscape so that organizations can anticipate changes and prioritize actions,” said David Moules, VP, Pfizer, Inc., U.S. Payer & Channel Access. “The results of ‘Ahead of the Curve’ validates the biopharmaceutical industry’s efforts to discover, develop and bring to market medicines deemed to be of value to the health care system including those that are responsible for paying for the medicines.”

Beginning last April, the Foundation initiative involved months of research and analysis, including a full-day, facilitated discussion and trends assessment in D.C. The top 10 emerging trends identified by the report include:

1. Migration from fee-for-service to new provider payment models
2. Consolidation of health care stakeholders
3. Widespread use of data and analytics in patient care
4. Increased utilization and spending for specialty medicines
5. Medicaid expansion
6. Migration to value-oriented health care marketplace
7. Growth and performance of accountable care organizations
8. Greater patient engagement through technology
9. Increasing patient cost-sharing
10. Health care everywhere through new tools and mobile applications.

The report notes that until recently, health care experienced glacial-like change. Public policy (i.e., the passage of the ACA) and technological and scientific innovation jump-started rapid, dynamic changes in the system. While the
movement towards achieving the Triple Aim will be a continuing effort for many years, “the next five years are expected to signal significant advances in the movement towards a system where holistic care for the patient sits center stage, accountability is shared across stakeholders and value becomes the core currency of the health care marketplace.”

“Ahead of the Curve” concludes:

Health care reform made patient centricity a requirement but did not outline a path of change to help many stakeholders shift from their conventional approaches for patient engagement, care provision and health care financing. As a result, the US health care system is entering an era of rapid evolution, where an abundance of new tools and models are being explored in an effort to improve care efficiency and bend the cost curve. The near-term environment will be teaming with activity as stakeholders seek strategies, tactics, and tools that redefine how and where care is provided. To prepare for these emerging health care trends, stakeholders will need to generate novel solutions to improve patient metrics and tracking, enhance patient engagement, and implement approaches that can drive accountability, curtail costs, and incentivize quality. Though the path forward will vary by stakeholder, all players in the US health care system will need to place the patient center stage and consider their role in supporting long-term improvements in patient health in a more holistic manner.

The Foundation plans to make the report available to the public and will disseminate its findings broadly among a wide range of stakeholders, including policy makers, provider and patient organizations, thought leaders, media, educators and others. To obtain a copy, visit www.amcpfoundation.org.

About AMCP Foundation
The AMCP Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, is a research, education and philanthropic organization supporting the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP). Established in 1990 as the Foundation for Managed Care Pharmacy, the AMCP Foundation was created to support the research and education agenda of AMCP. The Foundation exists to advance collective knowledge and insights on major issues associated with the practice of pharmacy in managed health care settings. www.amcpfoundation.org.

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