

# Advancing Cancer-Relevant Research Beyond the ACA

Melinda J.B. Buntin

Professor & Chair, Department of Health Policy

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

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*Department of*  
Health Policy



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



## **Two New Organizations Created by the ACA**

### **The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**

Charged with comparative effectiveness research; created PCORnet to facilitate clinical effectiveness research studies in part by creating a standardized data model across sites

### **The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)**

Supports the development and testing of innovative healthcare payment and service delivery models



# PCORI & Cancer Research

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## Activities

- \$367 million in funding
- Funding comparative clinical effectiveness research, study translation, and stakeholder engagement
- Clinical Research Networks have collected EHR data for a cohort of 80 million individuals

## Impact

- Examples of expanded evidence base through PCORI funded research:
  - Early-stage prostate cancer clinical guidelines
  - Choosing between treatment for one versus two breasts
  - Effective ways to increase colon cancer screening among Hispanic individuals
  - Treating insomnia in people with cancer
  - Assessment of follow-up surveillance intensity after colorectal cancer surgery
- Limited scope – estimate < 2% of new cancer cases included in recruited RCT and qualitative studies from 2012-2017



# CMMI & Cancer Care

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## 1. Oncology Care Model

- Focuses on high quality and more coordinated care at same or reduced cost
  - Includes 138 practices and 10 commercial plans
  - Slightly less than 1M episodes included in performance and baseline periods for OCM

## 2. Radiation Oncology Model

- Anticipated start date of Jan 1, 2022
- Aims to improve quality of care of cancer patients receiving radiotherapy through a simplified and predictable payment system

## Limitations of these Models

- Provider readiness to accept risk
- Data availability and timeliness
- Price adjustment methodologies



# Coordination across Federal Agencies

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- The ACA created a National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council (and an Advisory Group to the Council) to coordinate federal prevention activities
- Cancer screening included in strategic category of quality clinical preventive services
- Evaluation of Impact:
  - USPSTF created preventive service recommendations to primary care providers
  - Council released reports focused on federal departments working to improve health
  - CDC released data on cervical cancer screening among women and proposed better coverage under ACA preventive services



# Unfinished Business

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## 1. PCORI

- Continue to engage patients and the health care community
- Coordinate priorities with other federal research programs
- Enroll patient populations that have been underrepresented in research

## 2. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

- Improve cancer screening among diverse populations
- Increase proportion of research participants from populations disproportionately affected by chronic conditions but underrepresented in research

## 3. CMMI

- Evaluate oncology models and expand as warranted
- Improve the scope of the episodes and risk adjustment of them
- Consider more comprehensive models for cancer patients



# Options for the New Administration

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- Strengthen ACA to increase insurance coverage and screening among cancer patients
- Redesign Medicare Part D – create a cap on out-of-pocket costs and limit price increases to inflation
- Incorporate the social determinants of health into value-based payment models for cancer care
- Create a “Cancer Cabinet” or federal council on cancer research