



# Council Currents

## National Health Council - March 2009

### NHC Role in Support of Comparative Effectiveness Research

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law on February 17, 2009, allocates \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research (CER). The NHC was an active participant in the debate on comparative effectiveness. A statement to members of Congress is posted on the NHC website. The NHC has been invited by the Institute of Medicine and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to present its position on CER and is in discussions with the National Institutes of Health on the need for a patient-focused approach on CER.

### Join the Campaign to Put Patients First and Share Your Story!

Personal stories are the most powerful tools patients have in their effort to educate policy makers and the media about health care. Yet few of the more than 125 million Americans affected by chronic diseases or disabilities have had the opportunity to share their narrative. The National Health Council is creating a bank of personal stories that can be shared with elected officials and the media. Encourage your members to share their personal stories with us!

### National Health Council Launches New Website

With a clearer structure, simplified navigation, and improved search functions, it's now easier to find NHC public policy statements. Visit the NHC's new website to find out how the NHC harnesses the collective power of the patient community to confront systemic health care issues that affect all patients.

### Introducing "Better Health Care by Design"

The National Health Council is pleased to announce the issue of Better Health Care by Design, a weekly SmartBrief e-publication created by the NHC and Wyeth as part of an out-of-pocket cost-impact initiative. This is a free service designed to provide members a timely snapshot of media reporting and analysis on the issues surrounding the impact of out-of-pocket costs on people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their caregivers, providers, and employers.

### — More Articles —

NHC-NIH Collaborative Research Database

Health Care Reform

Intellectual Property/ Biosimilars Update

FDA, Intellectual Property, and Related Policy Issues

Appropriations Policy Issues

International Alliance of Patients' Organizations

Electronic Personal Health Records Update

NHC Representation and Presentations

NHC in the News

### — Members Only \* —

[2009 VHA Economic Impact Survey Report](#)

[Restoring Public Trust in Clinical Research](#)

[Guidelines for Research Grants](#)

## Additional Resources

- National Health Council Home Page
- Campaign to Put Patients First
- NHC Blog

\* If you have difficulty logging into the Members Only Section, please contact the NHC at [info@nhcouncil.org](mailto:info@nhcouncil.org)



[Petition for Change](#) | [Find NHC Members](#) | [Public Policy](#) | [Resource Directory](#) | [NHC Calendar](#)

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