Author's response to reviews

Title: Costs and Repeat Rates Associated with Colonoscopy Observed Medical Claims for Commercial and Medicare Populations

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Christopher Morrey
Executive Editor
BMC Health Services Research

Dear Mr. Morrey:

On behalf of my coauthors, I am submitting the manuscript entitled “Costs and Repeat Rates Associated with Colonoscopy Observed Medical Claims for Commercial and Medicare Populations” for publication in BMC Health Services Research.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is among the leading causes of cancer-related mortality in the United States. The incidence and mortality associated with CRC can be reduced with preventive screening. Inadequate bowel preparation has been associated with missed adenomas and the need for repeat colonoscopies. We analyzed the costs and cost sharing associated with screening colonoscopy in both commercial and Medicare populations and determined the rate of repeat colonoscopy in patients considered to be at high risk and low risk for CRC. Reported rates of inadequate bowel preparation are 15% to 25%, but the rates of repeat colonoscopy found in our analysis are much lower. This is a risk concern considering the reported, significant miss rate of adenomas secondary to inadequate bowel preparation.

All authors have met the conditions for authorship as recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. All authors have participated in the analysis and/or interpretation of the data; drafting and revising of the manuscript, and have approved the manuscript as submitted.

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This manuscript has not been published and, if published in *BMC Health Services Research* it will not be published elsewhere without permission of the editors. Additionally, it will not be submitted to another journal while under consideration for publication in *BMC Health Services Research*.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and review of this manuscript. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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