

ABHC

Alliance for Better Health Care

Who We Are

ABHC is a coalition of representatives of consumers, employers, health care providers, health plans, pharmacists, research organizations, unions, and other interested stakeholders that believe high quality health care requires sound evidence to improve medical decision-making.

Our Mission

ABHC seeks to promote comparative effectiveness research (CER) and its dissemination through advocacy supporting efforts to:

- Increase federal funding for CER
- Identify knowledge gaps and prioritize where further research is needed
- Broadly disseminate research findings to clinicians, patients, and others
- Encourage the application of comparative effectiveness in clinical practice by presenting research findings in formats understandable to different audiences

Guiding Principles for Comparative Effectiveness

There is a growing consensus among public and private decision-makers that we need more and better information about the relative effectiveness of various treatments. Such information could help improve health care quality and patient outcomes, and reduce inappropriate and ineffective care. As policymakers consider ways to help Americans get the best care at the best value, ABHC has developed the following principles for prioritizing, conducting, disseminating, and using CER.

- CER has the potential to benefit the health of all Americans and is a true **public good**.
- **Significant and stable investment** is needed in CER—in the development of research methods and researchers, the design and conduct of studies, the scientific review of research, and the dissemination and communication of results—for it to reach its full potential.
- The scope of CER should address the **full spectrum of health care treatments**, including pharmaceuticals, devices, medical and surgical procedures, and other interventions.
- Scientific **integrity and independence** are paramount.
- CER should be based on **scientific evidence** employing an array of appropriate methods, such as randomized clinical control trials, observational studies, meta-analyses, and systematic technology assessment reviews.
- The processes for identifying research priorities, conducting research, validating the science, and disseminating results should be **transparent**.
- Any entity that commissions or conducts CER should **involve stakeholders** in setting research priorities and disseminating research.
- Board governance should assure **accountability** in the conduct and dissemination of CER.

AARP • Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy • Aetna • AFL-CIO • Alliance of Community Health Plans
American Academy of Family Physicians • American Osteopathic Association • American Pharmacists Association
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists • Blue Cross Blue Shield Association • Blue Shield of California
Coalition for Health Services Research • CVS Caremark • DaimlerChrysler Corporation • Ford Motor Company
General Motors Corporation • Group Health Cooperative • Kaiser Permanente • Marshfield Clinic
National Business Group on Health • Service Employees International Union • The Dow Chemical Company
The Joint Commission • UnitedHealth Group • WellPoint, Inc.

Joined by,
Consumers Union