THERAPY COST 2000: AN ELECTRONIC TOOL FOR EVALUATING THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THERAPEUTIC REGIMENS

David Day, Jane Brandman, Teresa J. Lubowski, Ambarish Ambegaonkar, Kevin Livengood, Dolores Nobles-Knight, John Van Vleet, Cindy Yamaga

Pfizer Inc, New York, NY

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1. ABSTRACT

Providing quality care to patients at the lowest cost is of primary concern to hospitals, clinics, managed care organizations, integrated health systems, and other health care providers operating in a prospective payment environment. Therapy Cost 2000 can help health care providers and decision-makers in a variety of settings reach the goal of cost-effective, high-quality patient care.

2. INTRODUCTION

As health care costs continue to rise, identifying the most efficient and cost-effective treatments becomes increasingly important. Therapy Cost 2000, developed by Pfizer Inc, is a Windows-based software application that can help health care decision-makers examine the costs and benefits of various therapeutic options and thus, allow efficient allocation of resources.

3. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Therapy Cost 2000 evaluates known treatment costs of various therapeutic options and assesses the economic impact of each therapy. The program can assess the treatment costs for a particular population of patients treated with various user-defined therapies and forecast the impact of adopting new therapies in that population.

4. USER-DEFINED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

4.1. Patient Population

Therapy Cost 2000 can segregate a patient population into six distinct, user-defined groups that can be differentiated based on age, disease severity, type of health care coverage, or various other population characteristics. The program allows the user to design a realistic model that accurately reflects the costs, utilization patterns, and utilization time periods specific to each group.

4.2. Cost and Utilization Patterns

The program is able to distinguish between four types of treatment costs: global event costs, global recurrent costs, local event costs, and local recurrent costs. Utilization patterns for all services, costs, and lengths of time over which costs are incurred are user-defined, allowing customization for a particular institution and population.

4.3. Economic Analyses

Types of economic analysis that can be performed using Therapy Cost 2000 include:

I. Cost-minimization or budgetary impact analysis: provides comparisons between several therapeutic options based on total costs per population or per patient

II. Cost-effectiveness analysis: allows the user to evaluate costs in relation to a predefined positive outcome

III. Cost-efficiency analysis: costs are adjusted to represent a unit change for a key clinical indicator

IV. Sensitivity analysis: can be used to examine how a range of potential changes in the cost of a single variable can affect the overall cost of treatment. Can be performed on up to five different types of costs at a time

5. CLINICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROGRAM

Therapy Cost 2000 can be used to evaluate both pharmaceutical and more invasive treatment options for a variety of disease states. For example, considerable costs are associated with the treatment of infectious disease. The program can be used to compare the cost-effectiveness of various regimens for treatment of a particular infection, in a particular patient population, and/or in a specific type of institution.

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