Survey on Use of Comparative Effectiveness Studies
Summary Findings

Survey Methodology

- The purpose of the survey was to understand health plan awareness and use of Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) reports on comparative effectiveness.
- The survey was fielded between July and August 2016.
- All 18 plans asked to participate in the study submitted responses to the survey, which resulted in a survey response rate of 100%. According to data from AIS’s Directory of Health Plans: 2016 the responding plans had total major medical enrollment of 114.6 million members, (39.6% of the national health insurance market).

Findings

- All of the responding plans had heard about ICER and 66% of the respondents read ICER’s reports, attend meetings etc.
- The new emphasis by ICER on assessing the effectiveness and value of recently approved drugs is well known among plan representatives: 88% of survey respondents were aware about this emphasis¹.
- ICER reports were read by respondents, ranging from a high of 79% of respondents for the most read report and 7% for the least read report.
- Self-education (88%) and coverage determination (73%) were the most common purposes for which ICER reports were used by survey respondents. However, such uses as physician awareness (40%) and consumer awareness (38%) were also mentioned by more than a third of respondents.
- Most of the survey respondents found the report's executive summary (100%) and the full report (83%) to be the most useful ICER communication products. Other communication products were useful for a minority of the plan’s representatives: report at a glance (25%), press release (25%), and action guides (25%). No respondents mentioned meeting recordings as being useful.

¹ Two respondents had heard about ICER, but were not familiar with the nature of its work were therefore not posed this question.
The respondents communicated that conducting more class reviews, including older agents (67%) and releasing ICER reports prior to the FDA drug approval (50%) would make the ICER reports even more useful.