

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

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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

## **Therapy Cost 2000**

### **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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