

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 2021
TO: Health Service Board
FROM: Dr. Stephen Follansbee, Health Service Board President
RE: President's Report

Dear Board Members,

I'd like to share two messages with you today.

1. No one is safe until everyone is safe. This is the Public Health Officer's mantra. There is still a considerable need within our own Health Service System membership for continued emphasis on the importance of vaccination against COVID-19. We need to redouble our efforts to assure that all our coworkers, family, and community, as well as ourselves individually, are safe. Get vaccinated if you haven't been.

2. I share two articles from ICER, the Institute for Clinical and Review. This is a watchdog organization founded in 2006, referenced in our HSB's Pharmaceutical Update at the Regular April 2019 meeting. The first paper is the result of an evaluation of selected high-impact drugs with substantial price increases 2017-8. Seven of the nine drugs reviewed showed no justification for the price increases based on new clinical evidence. The price tag of these increases in 2 years? 4.8 billion dollars. The second paper published in September 2020 outlines ICER's approach to fair drug coverage. The Health Service Board is working with HSS staff and AON to review the issue of pharmacy rebates and an updated presentation to the full Board on Pharmacy issues.

<https://icer.org/explore-our-research/policy-papers/unsupported-price-increase-2019/>

<https://icer.org/assessment/cornerstones-of-fair-drug-coverage-2020/>

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Follansbee