



# **Managing Biopharmaceuticals in the U.S. Public Policy and Market Strategy**

**University of Paris-Descartes  
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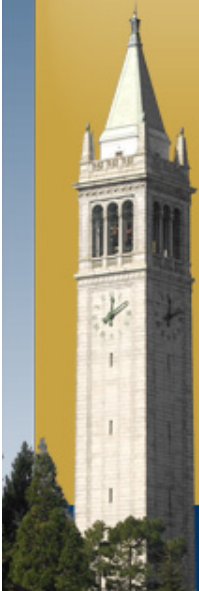
# OVERVIEW

- Public policy: Congress and Obama Administration
- Challenges to biopharmaceuticals in the US
- Small biotechnology firms
- Large biotechnology firms
- Market strategies for biotechnology and insurers
  - Immunology example: Rheumatoid arthritis
- Appropriate utilization
  - Care management, companion diagnostics
  - Benefit design and consumer cost sharing
- Distribution and physician practice economics
- Performance-based pricing



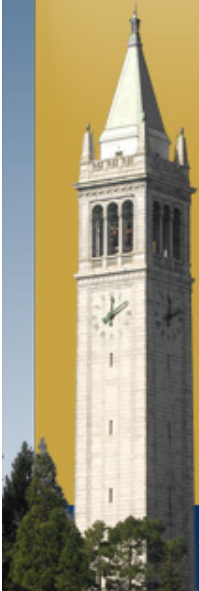
# Public Policy: Replacement of Market Forces

- Expansion of public insurance plans
  - Federal support for increased enrollment in state plans
  - New proposed national public insurance plan
- Drug purchasing by public insurance plans
  - Mandatory discounts and rebates
- Cutting public payments for private plans
  - Encouraging Medicare enrollment to shift from private (Medicare Advantage) to public Medicare plan



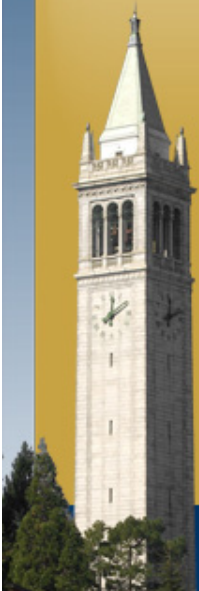
# Public Policy: Support for Market Forces

- Comparative effectiveness research
  - Therapies are equivalent until proven non-equivalent, or non-equivalent until proven equivalent?
  - Biologics as obvious candidates for testing
    - Lucentis and Avastin
    - Biologic therapies for rheumatoid arthritis, MS
- Regulatory pathway for biosimilars
  - Following the lead of the EU
  - Effects will be only long-term, not short-term, except for EPO, growth hormone, and a few others
- Continued support for employment-based insurance



## Challenges to Biotechnology: Small Firms

- How to obtain continued financial investments:
  - Long pathway to product revenues
  - Retreat by venture capitalists (50% decline in 1Q09)
  - IPO window closed
  - Credit markets closed for debt financing
- Very low valuations: many valued at less than cash
- Acquisitions by larger biotech and by pharma
  - Large pharma is cash rich
  - Europharma has (had) strong(er) Euro
  - Acquisitions preferred over licensing
- Reverse merger or unwinding
- Overall: very widespread concerns over pipeline



## Challenges to biotechnology: Large firms

- Some have strong product revenues (high prices, indication spread for oncology, immunology)
- Valuations mostly down, making them attractive acquisition targets: Genentech, Wyeth, Imclone
- Major challenge is from payers
  - Government
  - Consumers
  - Private insurers
- All these focus on unit prices, utilization, and expenditures (revenues) for biopharmaceuticals
- Huge pressure to reduce expenditures
- Most important are the private insurers



## Market Strategies: Biopharma and Insurers

- Are manufacturers and insurers engaged in a zero sum game in the market?
  - Zero sum: your gain is my loss, and vice versa.
  - Manufacturers favor premium pricing, extended patent protection, coverage without restrictions, no financial barriers for patients, favorable reimbursement for physician practices
  - Insurers favor commodity pricing, biosimilars, prior authorization, consumer cost sharing, reduced payments for distribution through physician practices
- Can this be changed to a positive sum game?
  - We both gain overall from playing, even if our interests diverge at times (zero sum sub-games)



# A Positive Sum Game: Immunology

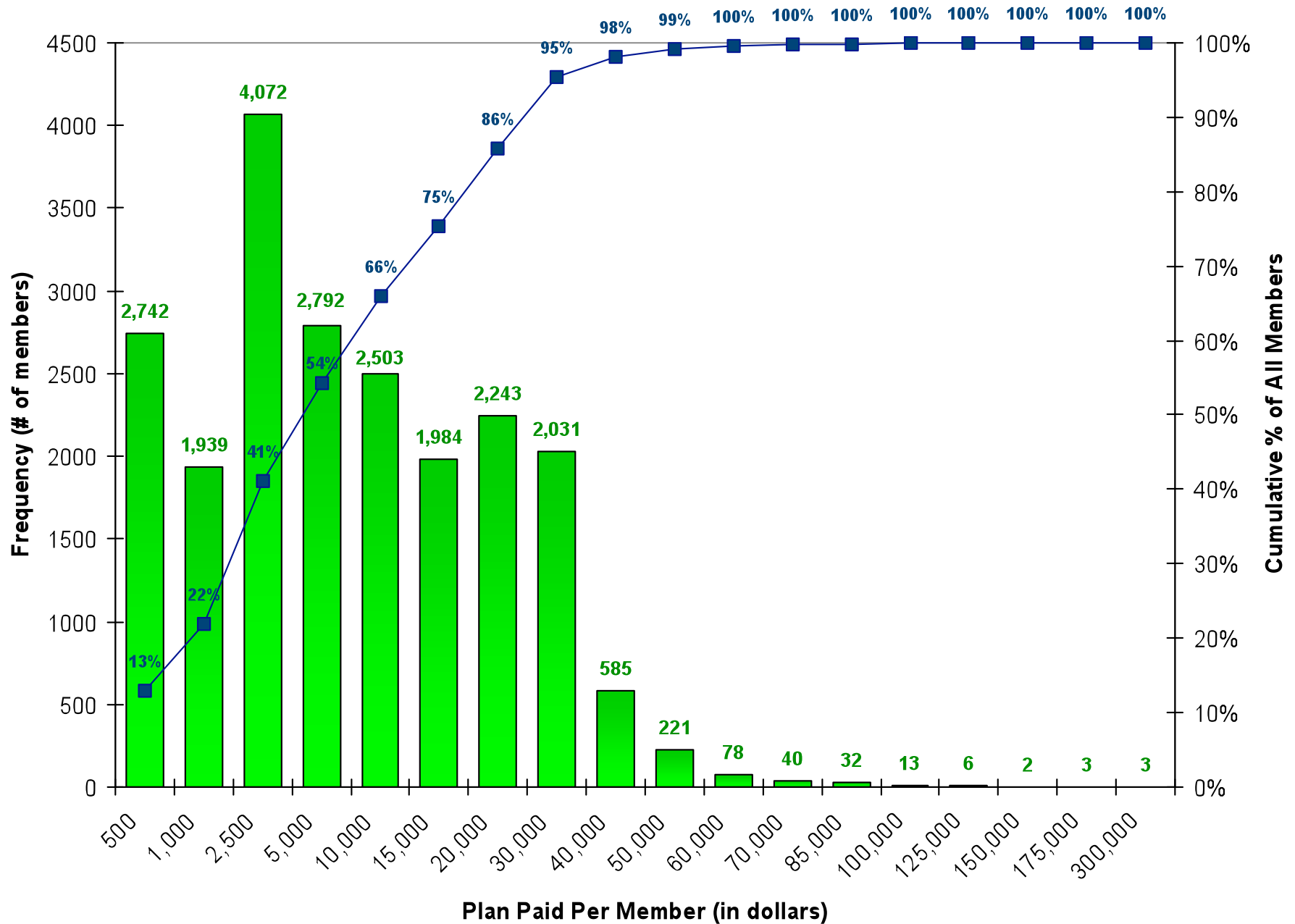
1. Enhancing appropriate utilization
  - Prior authorization and early intervention
  - Care management: safety monitoring and patient education
2. Benefit design and consumer cost sharing
  - Tiered formulary for specialty drugs
3. Distribution and physician practice economics
  - Specialty pharmacy and buy-and-bill
4. Performance-based pricing





## Annualized Rx Spend Distribution Histogram

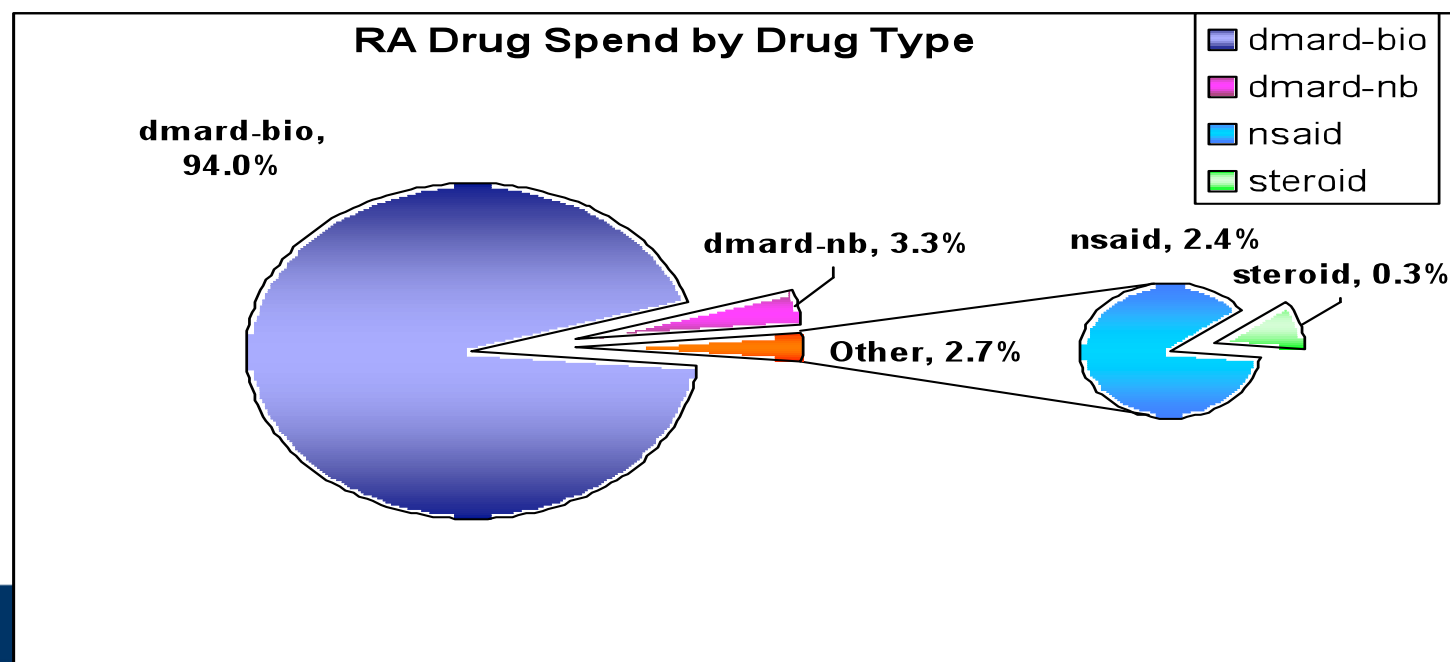
Based on Claims with Service Date between 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2008



## Top RA Drugs Utilized Based on Paid

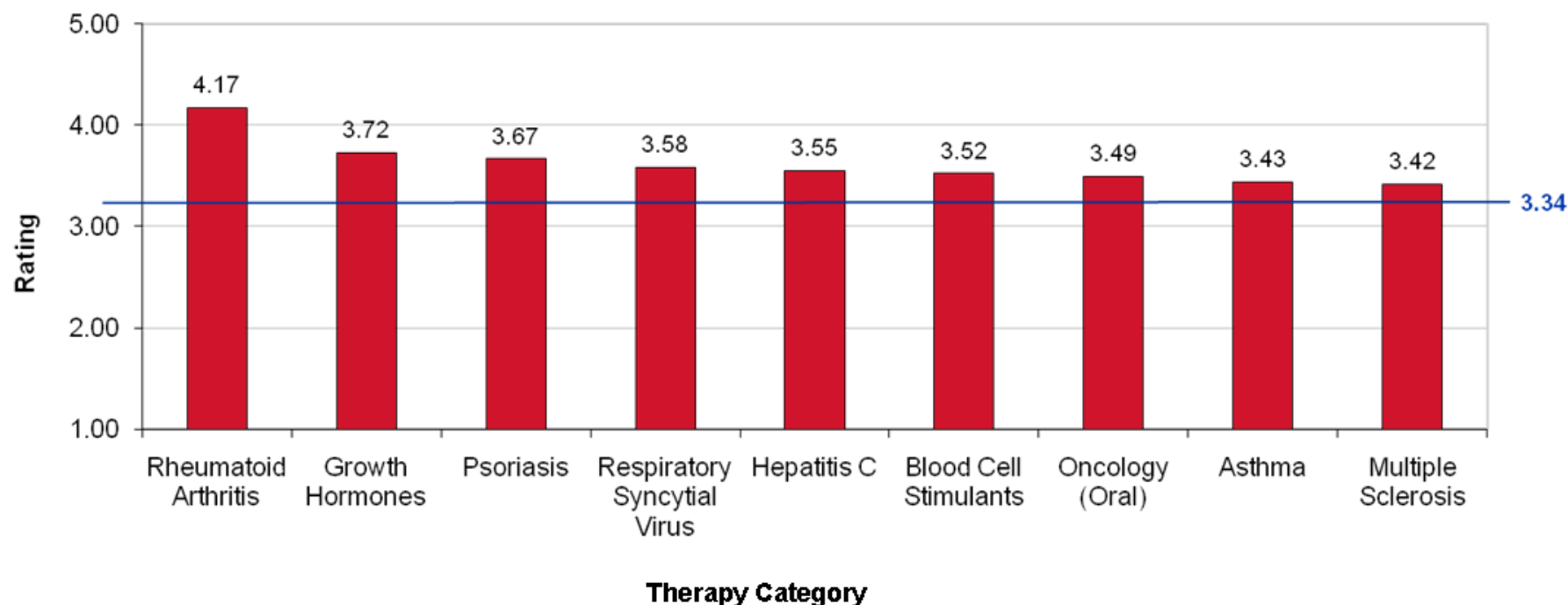
Service Date between 7/1/2006 – 6/30/2008

| Drug               | Paid          | % of Paid | Mbrs  | % of Mbrs |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| REMICADE           | \$ 89,736,667 | 32.4%     | 2861  | 12.8%     |
| ENBREL             | \$ 85,261,154 | 30.8%     | 4172  | 18.7%     |
| HUMIRA             | \$ 61,731,384 | 22.3%     | 2987  | 13.4%     |
| ORENCIA            | \$ 11,423,856 | 4.1%      | 831   | 3.7%      |
| RITUXAN            | \$ 10,818,816 | 3.9%      | 528   | 2.4%      |
| CELEBREX           | \$ 4,015,979  | 1.5%      | 3055  | 13.7%     |
| METHOTREXATE       | \$ 3,213,967  | 1.2%      | 12283 | 55.1%     |
| LEFLUNOMIDE        | \$ 2,766,610  | 1.0%      | 2532  | 11.4%     |
| HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE | \$ 1,381,051  | 0.5%      | 5627  | 25.2%     |
| KINERET            | \$ 990,552    | 0.4%      | 71    | 0.3%      |



# Highest-Priority Therapy Categories

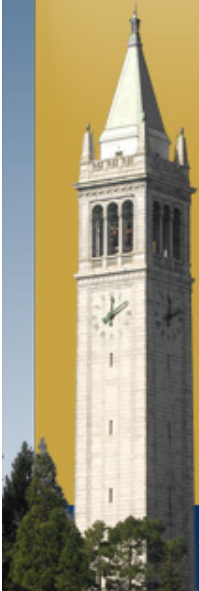
On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1=lowest priority and 5=highest priority, rate the priority to manage each drug category.



Mean=3.34

## Enhancing Appropriate Utilization: Patient Identification

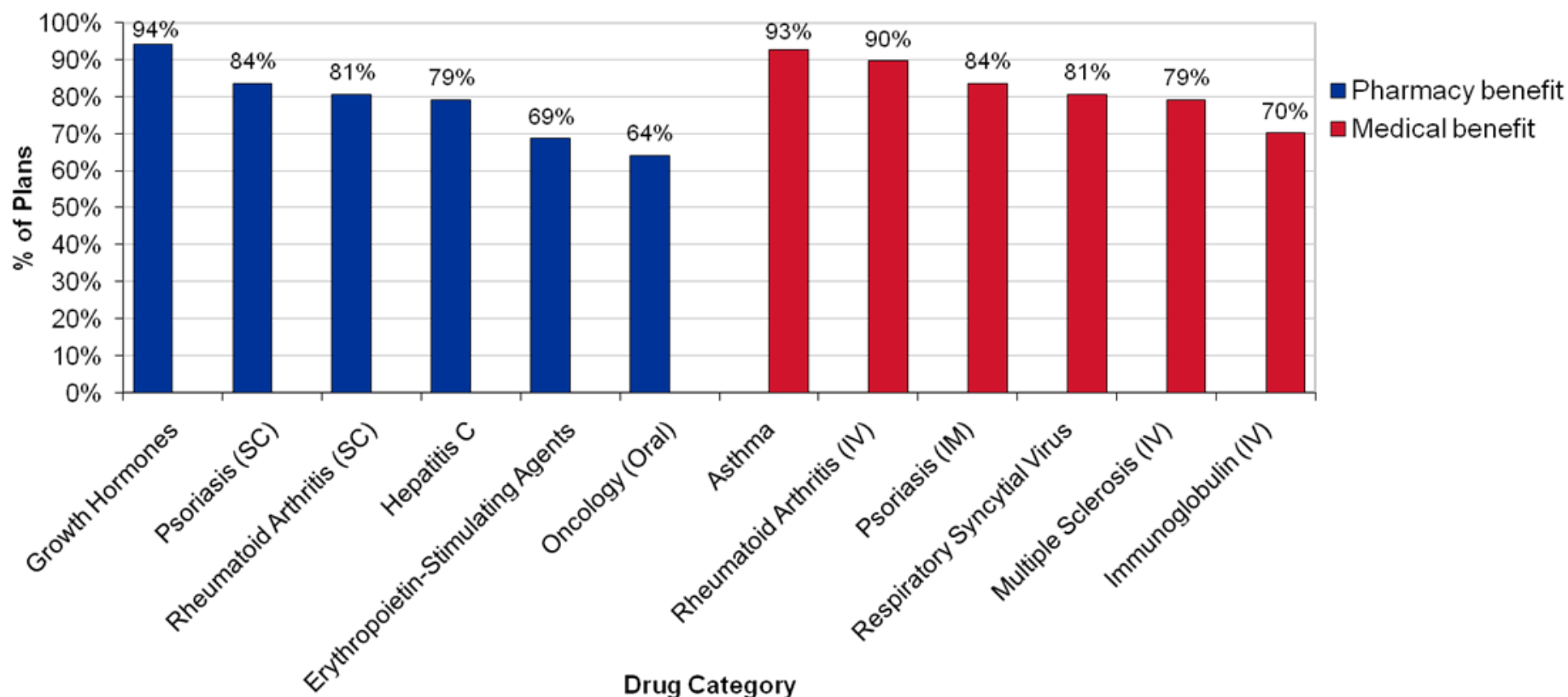
- The basic trade: manufacturers agree to help insurers contain use within evidence-based appropriateness, while insurers agree to help manufacturers identify patients who would benefit but are currently not on drug
- Cooperation on guidelines for appropriate use
  - FDA label, off-label: prior authorization
  - Severity: step therapy v. early intervention
  - Leapfrog over step therapy for early responders
- Companion diagnostic for early identification of patients who would benefit from treatment?



# Prior Authorization Required by Drug Category



Indicate which of the following therapeutic classes/products require PA for coverage under each benefit.



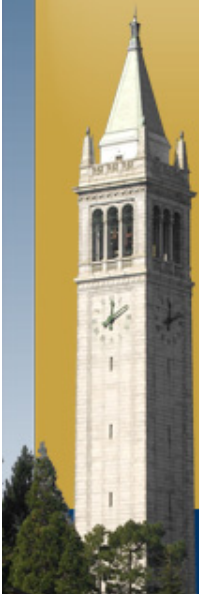
## Compare and Contrast

Compared to the 2007 data, the 2008 survey data identified:

- Higher use of prior authorization for psoriasis and lower use of prior authorization for self-administered multiple sclerosis therapies

## Prior Authorization for RA in Private Insurance

- Criteria for coverage and payment to physicians and pharmacy
  - Diagnosis of RA made by specialists, not physician generalist
  - Drug authorization for RA (on-label use)
  - Step therapy: patient must have failed on 6 month of MTX + NSAIDs
  - During that time period, patient must have:
    - No decrease in number of swollen or painful joints,
    - No decrease in pain or disability,
    - No improvement in global assessment that includes patient activity/functional assessment, OR
    - Radiographic evidence of disease progression
  - OR patient cannot tolerate MTX due to documented side effects



## Enhancing Appropriate Utilization: Care Management

- All patients using high-cost and potentially toxic biologics should be in care management (CM)
- The basic trade: Insurers agree that a major goal of CM is to maintain continuance of therapy (as is often appropriate) by resolving financial barriers, adverse effects, convenience problems.
- Manufacturers agree that goals of CM also include safety monitoring, identifying patients who should discontinue therapy.



# Accordant DM program

## What Can Members Expect from the Accordant Program?

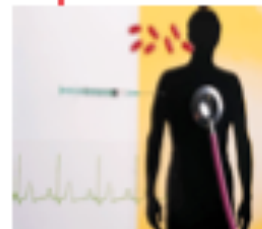
- Introductory information phone call from NHS nurse
- Quarterly condition-specific assessment calls
- A personal Disease Management nurse
- Individualized interventions and condition-specific education
- Assistance with coordination of care and resource needs
- Physician (PCP and specialist) notification/education
- Monthly newsletters on general wellness and condition-specific topics (alternating months) and other educational material as needed
- Access to disease-specific communities at [www.accordant.com](http://www.accordant.com)
- 24/7 access to nurse specialists



Call Center is staffed Monday through Thursday, 8 AM to 10 PM EDT.



## Disease Management Intervention Strategies



- **Promote Better Self-Management Skills**
  - Access, Education, Communication, Compliance
- **Promote Disease Complications**
  - Risk Stratify, Assess, Monitor, Treat
- **Promote Drug Safety**
  - Education, Monitoring, Compliance, Interaction/Contraindications

- **Enhance Participant's Ability to Cope**
  - Psychosocial, Advance Directive, Community Resources
- **Promote "Stop-Healthy" Behavior**
  - Wellness/Prevention
- **Provide Care Coordination**





## Benefit Design: Cost Sharing

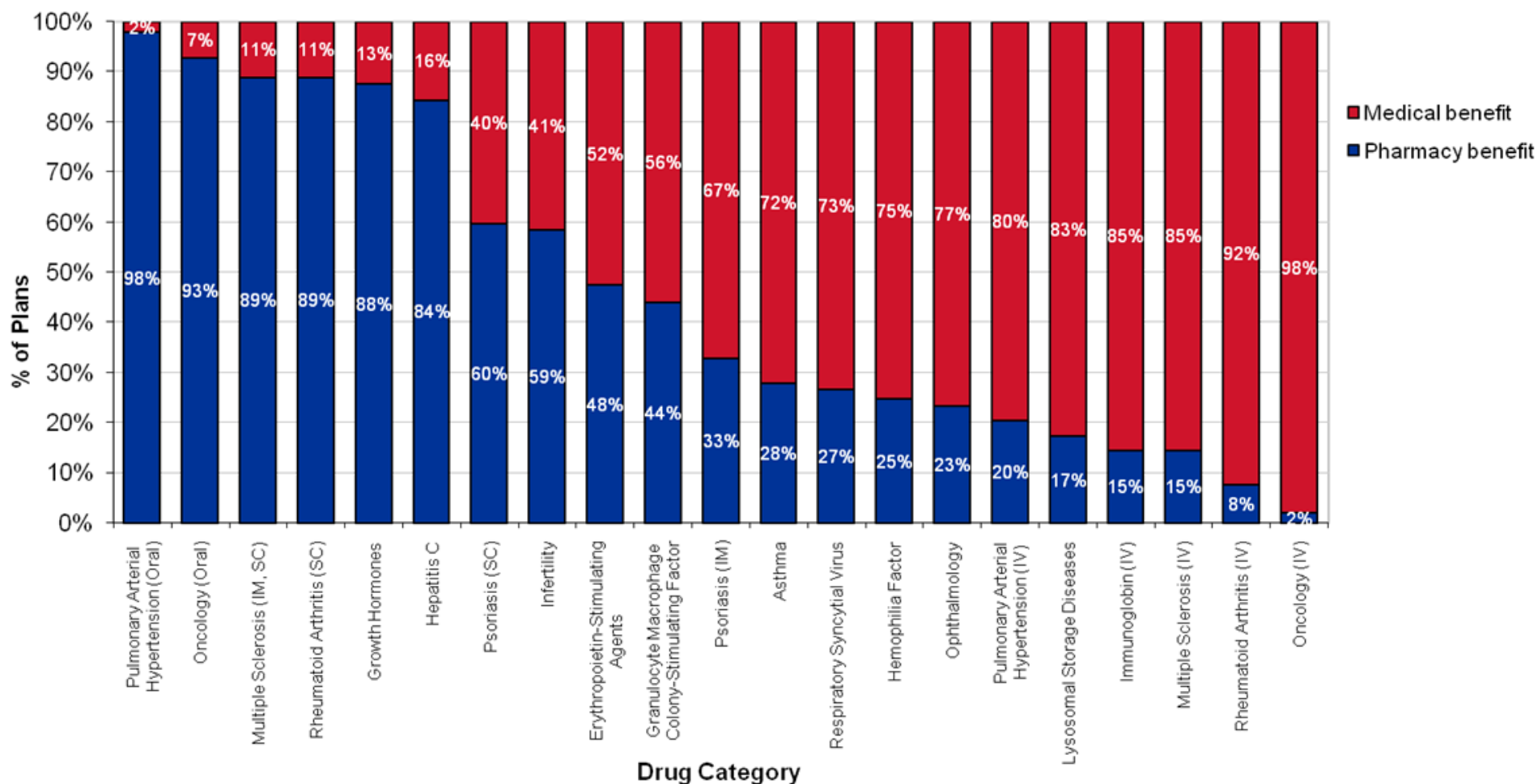
- Consumers must be conscious of the cost of care, and cost sharing can guide appropriate choices
- But some patients avoid effective and cost-effective treatments due to cost-sharing
- “Value-based insurance design” (VBID) shifts cost-effective drugs to “tier” with lower cost sharing
- VBID for immunology biologics?
  - Complications: benefit design and cost share differ between office administered infused drugs (e.g., Remicade, Rituxan) v. self-administered injected drugs (e.g., Enbrel, Humira)



# Benefit Coverage of Specialty Pharmaceuticals by Drug Category



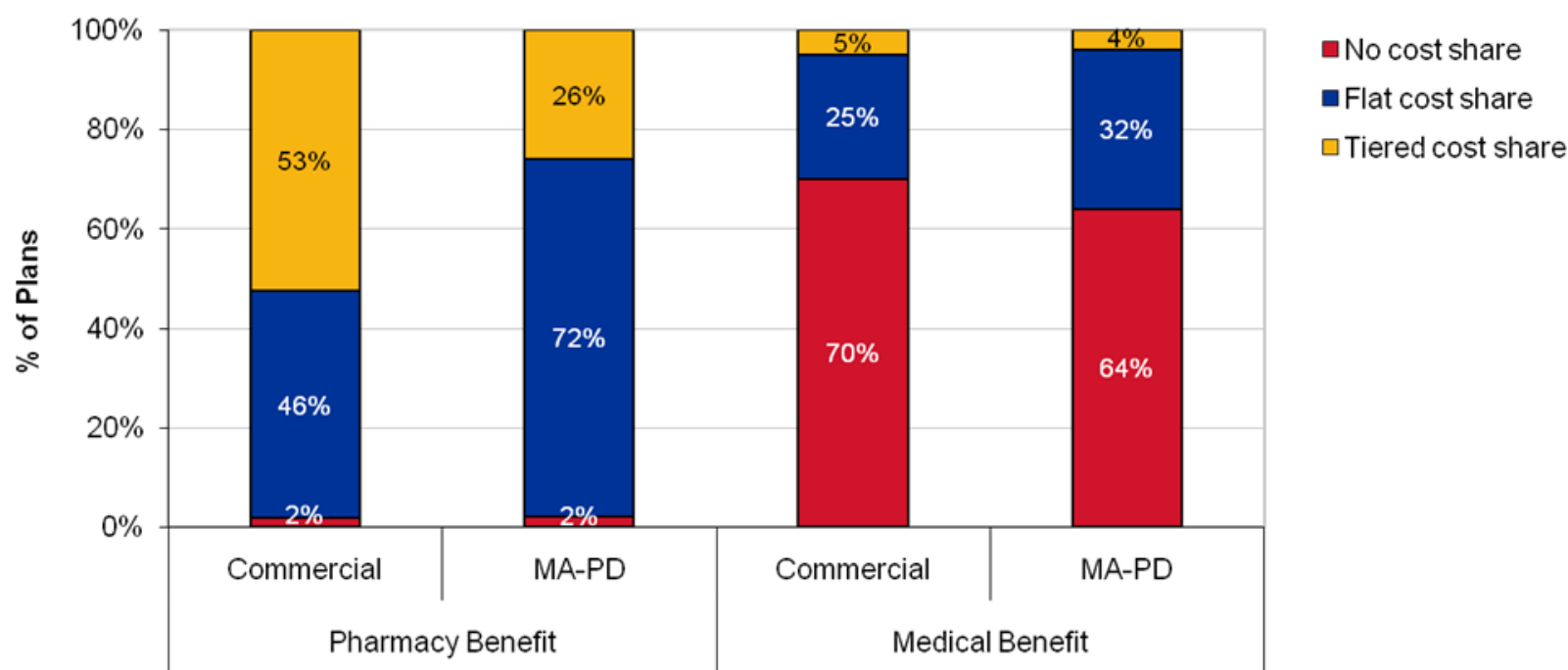
Indicate the benefit under which each drug is typically covered for your most common benefit structure.



# Pharmacy and Medical Benefit Cost Share Methods



*Describe the most common share methodology for specialty drugs covered under each line of business.*



# Employer Trends 2000-2008

Among Covered Workers with Three, Four, or More Tiers of Prescription Cost Sharing, Average Copayments and Average Coinsurance, 2000–2008

|   | 2000 | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Average Copayments</b>                   |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| First-Tier Drugs, Often Called Generic      | \$8  | \$8   | \$9   | \$9*  | \$10* | \$10  | \$11* | \$11  | \$10  |
| Second-Tier Drugs, Often Called Preferred   | \$15 | \$16* | \$18* | \$20* | \$22* | \$23* | \$25* | \$25  | \$26  |
| Third-Tier Drugs, Often Called Nonpreferred | \$29 | \$28  | \$32* | \$35* | \$38* | \$40* | \$43* | \$43  | \$46* |
| Fourth-Tier Drugs                           | ^    | ^     | ^     | ^     | \$59  | \$74  | \$59  | \$71* | \$75  |
| <b>Average Coinsurance</b>                  |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| First-Tier Drugs, Often Called Generic      | 18%  | 18%   | 18%   | 18%   | 18%   | 19%   | 19%   | 21%   | 21%   |
| Second-Tier Drugs, Often Called Preferred   | NSD  | 23%   | 24%   | 23%   | 25%   | 27%   | 26%   | 26%   | 25%   |
| Third-Tier Drugs, Often Called Nonpreferred | 28%  | 33%   | 40%   | 34%*  | 34%   | 38%   | 38%   | 40%   | 38%   |
| Fourth-Tier Drugs                           | ^    | ^     | ^     | ^     | 30%   | 43%*  | 42%   | 36%   | 28%   |

**SOURCE:**

Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2000–2008.

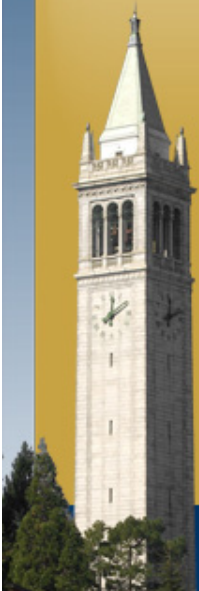
\* Estimate is statistically different from estimate for the previous year shown ( $p < .05$ ).

^ Fourth-tier drug copayment or coinsurance information was not obtained prior to 2004.

NSD: Not Sufficient Data.

## Consumer Cost Sharing: The Basic Trade

- Insurer places a drug in tier with minimal cost sharing if:
  - The patient is an appropriate candidate (according to coverage criteria, prior authorization, companion diagnostic), **and**
  - The patient cooperates with care management program, **and**
  - The drug is obtain through appropriate distribution channel (e.g. specialty pharmacy) and physician practice, **and**
  - The drug is priced based on performance (see below)
- Otherwise, drug is placed in tier with high cost sharing



## **Distribution and Physician Practice: The Basic Trade**

- Manufacturer cooperates with insurer in moving practices from markups to specialty pharmacy (and/or B&B without big markup), good data capture, coordination of office administration with care management program.
- Insurer agrees not to design reimbursement and consumer benefits that discriminate against office administered drugs, and to raise professional fees to replace drug markups.



## Performance-based Pricing

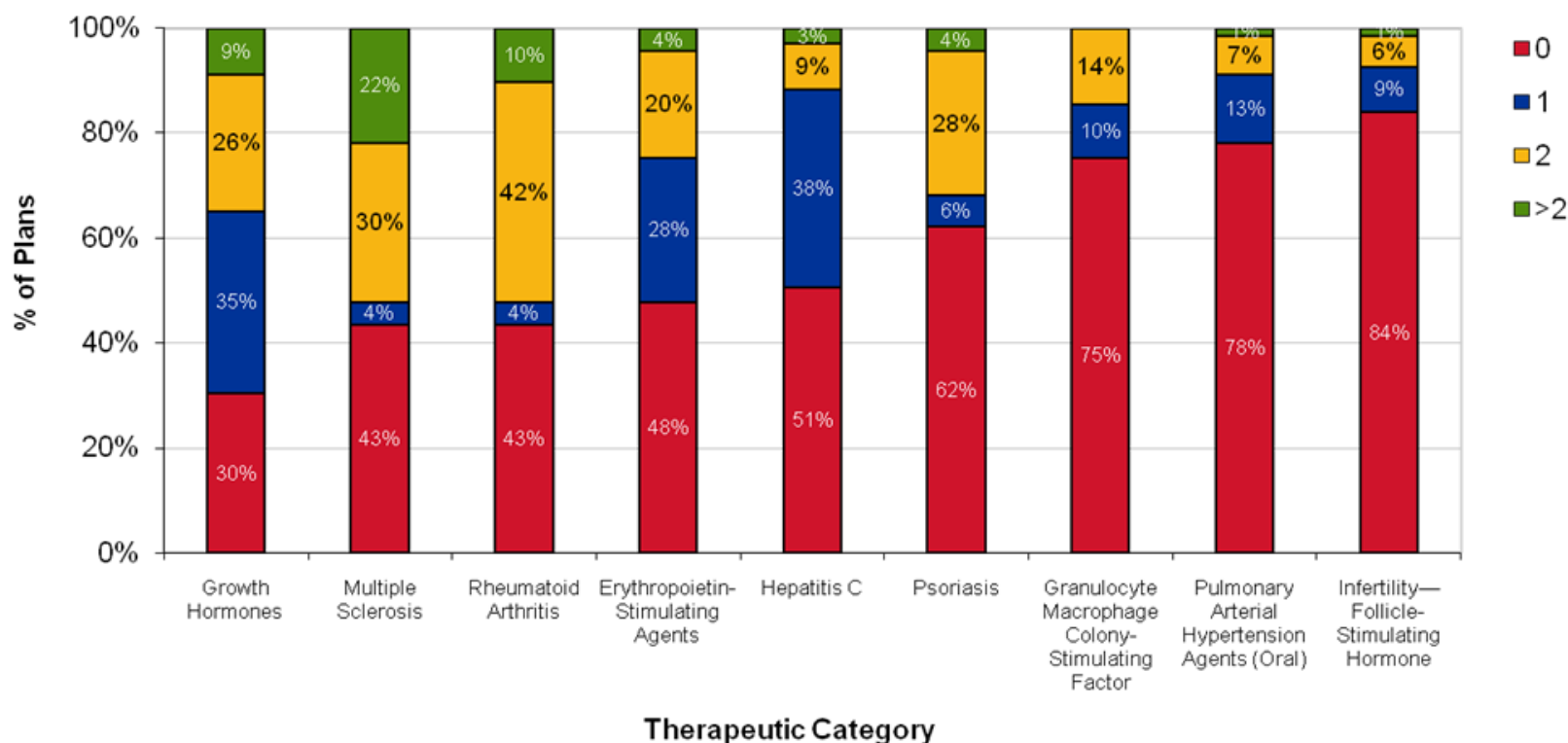
- Manufacturer's preference: list price, based on reference product price plus differentiator ( $V=R+D$ )
  - $V$ =Value-based price
  - $R$ =Reference product price
  - $D$ =Difference between new and reference drug
- Without therapeutic substitution, manufacturer wins
- With widespread therapeutic substitution, insurer wins
- With limited but growing substitution, is there a trade?



# Number of Preferred Products by Therapeutic Category



Indicate the number of preferred products for each of the following therapeutic classes/products.





# Performance-Based Pricing

- Performance-based price:  $P=R+D+E$ 
  - P: performance-based price
  - R: reference price of lowest cost therapeutic equivalent, using comparative effectiveness studies to determine equivalence
  - D: difference between new and reference drug, updated with new evidence on efficacy, safety, patient experience
  - E: efficiencies from cooperation: criteria for appropriate use, care management, consumer cost sharing, distribution, physician practice support, data capture and analysis



## Conclusion and summary

- Public policy is wavering between replacing and supporting market forces in health care
- Biopharma industry is under pressure
- Areas of potential cooperation: biotech/insurers
  - Patient identification and care management
  - Value-based insurance design and cost sharing
  - Distribution and physician practice support
  - Performance-based pricing
- Immunology as current example
- Oncology as most important sector to watch

