

For Immediate Release
December 20, 2016

Contact: Mary Wallan
(617) 509-2419
mary_wallan@hphc.org

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute Approved for \$3.2 Million Research Funding Award to Study the Impact of High-Deductible Health Plans and Preventive Drug Lists on Asthma Care Outcomes
Project Selected for Funding by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

A research team at the Harvard Medical School Department of Population Medicine at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute has been approved for a \$3.2 million funding award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to compare outcomes for adults and children with asthma in high-deductible health plans with and without preventive drug lists.

The study will evaluate the impact of high-deductible health plans and preventive drug lists on medication use and clinical outcomes for adults and children with asthma. Preventive drug lists exempt certain chronic medications from the deductible to promote adherence. “The research is intended to help patients, families, employers, and health plans make decisions about health insurance that promote high-value health care, reduce adverse health outcomes, and reduce the financial burden for families,” said Principal Investigator Alison A. Galbraith, assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School Department of Population Medicine at the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute. The project will incorporate patient and stakeholder perspectives through a collaboration with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

“This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other stakeholders, but also for its potential to fill an important gap in our health knowledge and give people information to help them weigh the effectiveness of their care options,” said PCORI Executive Director Joe Selby, MD, MPH. “We look forward to following the study’s progress and working with the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute to share the results.”

The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute’s study was selected for PCORI funding through a highly competitive review process in which patients, clinicians, and other stakeholders joined clinical scientists to evaluate the proposals. Applications were assessed for scientific merit, how well they will engage patients and other stakeholders, and their methodological rigor, among other criteria.

The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute’s award has been approved pending completion of a business and programmatic review by PCORI staff and issuance of a formal award contract.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

PCORI is an independent, nonprofit organization authorized by Congress in 2010. Its mission is to fund research that will provide patients, their caregivers, and clinicians with the evidence-based information needed to make better-informed healthcare decisions. For more information about PCORI’s funding, visit www.pcori.org.

About Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute's Department of Population Medicine

The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute's Department of Population Medicine is a unique collaboration between Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Harvard Medical School. Created in 1993, it is the only appointing medical school department in the United States based in a health plan. The Institute focuses on improving health care delivery and population health through innovative research and teaching. For more information, visit <http://www.populationmedicine.org>.

###