

National Health Organizations Form Coalition to Assure Scientific Integrity of Comparative Effectiveness Research

For Immediate Release

For further information, contact:
Dr. Harry Selker 617-636-5009

Washington, DC (September 17, 2009) – A group of national health research organizations has formed a coalition to assure the scientific integrity of any Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) programs adopted as part of health insurance reform. The purpose of CER is to improve medical care. For that reason, like all biomedical research, CER must be held to the highest standards of science and protected from conflicts of interest.

The Coalition will be known as the CER Coalition for the Integrity of Science, or CERCIS (pronounced sir-sis).

CERCIS was called together by the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) and will be chaired by Dr. Harry Selker of Massachusetts. Its initial membership includes the Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT), the Clinical Research Forum, the Society for Clinical and Translational Science (SCTS), and the Association for Patient-Oriented Research (APOR). Additional organizations are currently vetting membership through their internal mechanisms and will be announced later.

The Coalition believes that Comparative Effectiveness Research has the potential to improve the quality of medical care by providing physicians and their patients with scientifically valid information on what practices work most effectively for specific cases. It will be sharing its views on the specific provisions of the various legislative versions of health insurance reform legislation with House and Senate staff.

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