



ICER Policy Leadership Forum Overview

The Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) launched a membership program in 2015, now known as the ICER Policy Leadership Forum, to give a select number of leading health care organizations a unique opportunity to shape the future of evidence policy in the US.

Benefiting from ICER’s experience as a leader in health technology assessment and its ability to serve as an engaged, objective convener and moderator, the ICER Policy Leadership Forum (PLF) brings together a small, influential group of evidence leaders from insurers, pharmacy benefit management firms, health technology assessment groups, and life science companies to address challenges in evidence methods and policy.

Working together in a balanced, non-adversarial environment, PLF members contribute to the development of influential policy recommendations while enhancing the skills, insights, and relationships necessary to strengthen their competitive position in the marketplace.

ICER Policy Leadership Forum Membership

The PLF has two levels of membership: Standard and Flagship. ICER selects PLF members with the goal of maintaining balance across industries to represent a broad range of organizational perspectives. Policy Leadership Forum membership dues go to member-specific activities and do not fund ICER reports. Participation in the program does not provide members with influence into ICER’s health technology assessments. A full list of benefits is included in the table below.

Table 1: Benefits of the Policy Leadership Forum

	Standard	Flagship
Early Topic Announcements	<i>Access to early press releases on topic and project announcements</i>	
Policy Dialogues	<i>Twice Annual: Unlimited attendance to educational webinars about comparative effectiveness, value methods and policy implications</i>	
Special Methods Updates	<i>Access to Exclusive Discussions on Methods Updates</i>	
Policy Summit	<i>Annual: 2 tickets</i>	<i>Annual: 3 tickets</i>
Optional Site Visit from Senior ICER staff	X	<i>Annual</i>
Methods Advisory Board	X	<i>Triannual Meetings</i>
ICER Advisory Board	X	<i>Annual In-Person Meeting</i>



Annual ICER Policy Summit

The cornerstone of the ICER Policy Leadership Forum is participation in the annual ICER Policy Summit. Standard members receive an invitation for two participants; Flagship members receive an invitation for three participants.

Based on the model of the influential Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Policy Forum, this meeting convenes a small group of senior medical policy figures from leading insurers, pharmacy benefit management firms, and the life science industry to consider important issues related to comparative effectiveness research, technology assessment, coverage decision-making, and health care financing.

ICER develops a background white paper to support the discussion at the Policy Summit and then submits a final version that incorporates key policy recommendations generated at the meeting for peer-reviewed publication.

Key Features of the ICER Policy Summit include:

1. *Safe environment.* Meetings are run with a strict understanding that comments will not be attributed to individuals or organizations (“Chatham House” or “Vegas” rules). Dinners and receptions encourage the formation of long-term relationships and trust among all participants.
2. *Balanced membership.* For the goals of the Policy Summit to be achieved, it is vital to maintain a balanced membership among different organizational perspectives. ICER Policy Leadership Forum membership is therefore managed to preserve a 50-50 balance between manufacturers and payer organizations.
3. *Focused attention to key evidence policy issues.* Each Policy Summit focuses on a single high-priority issue over a day and a half to enable participants to delve deeply into one area and have the time to generate key policy recommendations.
4. *Impact without advocacy.* The impact of the Policy Summit is achieved through the power of longitudinal relationships, shared understanding, and positive policy developments. The academic papers arising from each meeting are crafted to achieve significant policy impact through publication in journals such as Health Affairs. However, the Policy Summit process is not in any way linked to advocacy for specific regulatory or coverage decisions.



Policy Dialogues

All PLF members receive an invitation for an unlimited number of company staff to join two special ICER “policy dialogue” webinars annually at no cost. Each webinar features a moderated discussion on an evidence policy issue, and topics are selected based on input from members.

In some cases, the topic serves as a window into the policy summit for all employees at member companies, while other policy dialogues may include relevant discussions on evaluating evidence. For instance, previous dialogues have featured conversations between pharmaceutical companies and payers on how real world evidence can support formulary decisions; how to evaluate the strength of evidence using surrogate outcome measures; important considerations for payers in making indirect treatment comparisons; the emerging competitive landscape surrounding biosimilars in the U.S.; and the relative advantages and disadvantages of international reference pricing vs. value assessment.

Special Methodological Input

Every two years, ICER updates its value assessment framework through a public process. In addition to its regular updates, ICER may also develop adaptations to its methodology for specific treatments or disease areas. For instance, in 2017, ICER developed special considerations for ultra-rare diseases; in 2019, ICER determined new methods for potential cures. When developing a new methodology, ICER often draws on the expertise and perspectives of its members. This may include special opportunities to comment on proposed methods, or in some cases, attendance at invite-only meetings.



Flagship Membership

A *limited* number of Flagship ICER memberships are available. Flagship members receive all of the benefits of Standard membership plus additional input and engagement through ICER's Methods Advisory group, Advisory Board, and site visit opportunities.

Methods Advisory Group

ICER's Methods Advisory Group (MAG) meets three times per year to provide guidance on ICER's methods for health technology assessments and other evaluations. In the past few years, the MAG has helped to shape a [data in-confidence policy](#), develop a pilot for a [model transparency program](#), and comment on the process and methods for ICER's [report evaluating price increases for high impact drugs](#). The MAG also helps to select the topic of the annual ICER Policy Summit and recommends specific content experts for speaking roles.

ICER Advisory Board

Each Flagship member is eligible for one seat on the ICER Advisory Board, which meets annually with ICER's Governance Board to provide guidance on ICER's overall portfolio of activities and strategic plan. Flagship members with a position on ICER's Advisory Board provide perspective and advice to ICER on how it can best fulfill its mission, but the Advisory Board has no direct governance role.

Site Visit (Optional)

Flagship members have the option to request an annual full-day, on-site consultation from senior ICER staff. ICER senior staff can bring into each organization high-level perspectives on comparative effectiveness research and value assessment. Site visits are tailored to each company, and can include educational sessions for staff or committees, and/or introductory conversations with executives about ways to apply health technology assessments in policy and practice.



Policy Leadership Forum Integrity

- ICER Policy Leadership Forum members have no role in influencing the selection of topics for ICER evidence reviews.
- Flagship members with a position on ICER's Advisory Board provide perspective and advice to ICER on how it can best fulfill its mission, but the Advisory Board has no direct governance role.
- During all discussions at ICER Policy Summits and Advisory Board meetings, ICER staff and Advisory Board members will refrain from any discussion that could provide the basis for an inference that members considered any action that might restrain trade in any way.
- The aim of ICER Policy Summit meetings is to provide an environment where senior policy leaders can engage in strategic discussions informed by the perspectives of their different organizations without the constraints associated with discussions of specific products or organizational policies. At no time, therefore, will these meetings include discussion of the competitive merits of any specific technology. Case studies regarding questions of evidence and coverage will be framed to avoid any competitive repercussions. Forum members are encouraged to express any concern that a competitive issue has arisen, at which time discussion of that topic will cease until all parties are comfortable with the line of discussion.

For more information about the ICER Policy Leadership Forum, please contact:

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