

1. "Group Seeks End To Gridlock On Health Reform," by Donna Smith (Reuters Health, Sep. 09, 2008). <http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2008/09/09/eline/links/20080909elin010.html>

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4. AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT: "Older persons in public housing: the policy and management issues," by Sean McNelis and Caroline Neske (September 2008, .pdf format, 87p.). http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/50318_fr

5. HONG KONG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRESS RELEASE: "Health Care Voucher Scheme for the elderly" (Sep. 9, 2008). <http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/press/2008/080909.html>

6. UK HOUSE OF COMMONS WORK AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: "Valuing and Supporting Carers," (HC 485I and II, August 2008, HTML and .pdf format, 135p. and 189p. respectively).

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7. AARP RESEARCH REPORTS, PRIME TIME RADIO:

C. "Comparison of 401(k) Participants' Understanding of Model Fee Disclosure forms Developed by the Department of Labor and AARP," by Colette Thayer (September 2008, .pdf format, 61p.).

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9. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS RESEARCH INSTITUTE PERIODICAL ARTICLE: "IRA Assets and Contributions, 2007," by Craig Copeland (in *_EBRI Notes_*, Vol. 29, No. 9, September 2008, .pdf format, p. 2-9).

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Click on "Download Notes PDF" for link to full text.

10. ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANT RESULT REPORTS:

A. "Study Finds Reverse Mortgages Benefit Older Homeowners - and Saves Medicaid Money, too" (Sep. 5, 2008). Click on View next to "Grant Results Report" under "Downloads" near the bottom of the page.

<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=17461&topicid=1049>

B. "What Factors Influence the Kind of Long-term Services Patients with Private Insurance Choose Over Time" (Sep. 5, 2008). Click on View next to "Grant Results Report" under "Downloads" near the bottom of the page.

<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=20213&topicid=1049>

11. METLIFE MATURE MARKET INSTITUTE QUICKPOLL REPORT: "Feeling the Economic Pinch: A MetLife QuickPOLL of Americans 60+" (September 2008, .pdf format, 4p.).
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12. NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH:

A. "Measuring Welfare and the Effects of Regulation in a Government-Created Market: The Case of Medicare Part D Plans," by Claudio Lucarelli, Jeffrey Prince and Kosali Simon (w14296, September 2008, .pdf format, 31p.).

Abstract:

Medicare's prescription drug benefit (Part D) has been its largest expansion of benefits since 1965. Since the implementation of Part D, many regulatory proposals have been advanced to improve this government-created market. Among the most debated are proposals to limit the number of options, in response to concerns that there are "too many" plans. In this paper we study the welfare impacts of limiting the number of Part D plans. To do this, we first provide evidence that consumers view Medicare Part D plans as differentiated products. In doing so, we determine how much Medicare beneficiaries value the plans' various features -- an important measurement not only for our analysis, but also because these features are heavily dictated by policy. Second, using our demand- and supply-side estimates, we conduct several policy experiments to understand the implications of reducing the number of plans. Specifically, we assess the effects on equilibrium premia and welfare from removing plans that cover "the gap," reducing the maximum number of plans each firm can offer per region, and, for validation purposes, the impact of a recent major merger. Our counterfactuals regarding removal of plans provide an important assessment of the losses to consumers (and producers) resulting from government limitations on choice. These costs must be weighed against the widely discussed expected gains from limiting options (due to expected reductions in consumer search costs) when considering new restrictions on the number of plans that can be offered. We find that the search costs should be at least two thirds of the average monthly premium in order to justify a regulation that allows only two plans per firm, and that this number would be substantially lower if the limitation in the number of plans is coupled with a decrease in product differentiation (e.g., by removing plans that cover "the gap"). <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14296>

B. "The Effect of Medicare Coverage for the Disabled on the Market for Private Insurance," by John F. Cogan, R. Glenn Hubbard, and Daniel P. Kessler (w14309, September 2008, .pdf format, 26p.).

Abstract:

Subsidies for health insurance for chronically ill, high-cost individuals may increase coverage in the broader population by improving the functioning of insurance markets. In this paper, we assess an historical example of a policy intervention of this sort, the extension of Medicare to the disabled, on the private insurance coverage of non-disabled individuals. We use data on insurance coverage from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics from before and after the extension of Medicare to the disabled to estimate the effect of the program on private insurance coverage rates in the broader population. We find that the insurance coverage of individuals who had a health condition that limited their ability to work increased significantly in states with high versus low rates of disability. Our findings suggest that subsidizing individuals with high expected health costs is an effective way to increase the private insurance coverage of other high-cost individuals. <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14309>

13. Center for Economic Studies/Ifo Institute for Economic Research (CESifo) [Munich, Bavaria, Germany]: "On Myopia as Rationale for Social Security," by Torben Andersen and Joydeep Bhattacharya (WP2401, September 2008, .pdf format, 23p.). Links to an abstract and full text are available at:
http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/b-publ/b3publwp/wp_abstract?p_file_id=15988

14. HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY: The University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research HRS has recently added the following items to its bibliography. The entire bibliography is available at:
http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/papers/sho_papers.php?hfyle=bib_all

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Michaud, Pierre-Carl, Rohwedder, Susann. Forecasting Labor Force Participation and Economic Resources of the Early Baby Boomers. University of Michigan; Michigan Retirement Research Center [2008]

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