

What's Missing from ICER's Assessment of Abuse-Deterrent Opioids

Abuse-deterrent formulations (ADF) of opioids resist crushing or dissolving for misuse, helping to curb widespread opioid abuse.

But a recent report from the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review underestimates ADFs' value by ignoring several key benefits:



Impact on Reducing Opioid Abuse

The 14 U.S. reports reviewed by ICER show ADFs providing an average reduction in opioid abuse of 41%. Yet ICER cherry picks a single study for its assessment, citing only a 30% reduction in opioid abuse.



Ability to Curb Diversion

ADFs can reduce diversion – where opioids fall into the hands of people without a prescription – by almost 90%.



Savings on Social Costs

By reducing abuse and diversion, ADFs can also reduce indirect costs such as lost workplace productivity and criminal justice system expenses.



Ability to Balance Abuse Reduction and Pain Treatment

ADFs don't force patients to choose between treating their pain and preventing potential diversion and misuse of their medications.

If ICER's undervalued assessment of ADFs influences health plan coverage, patient access could suffer.