

Academic Rigor on a Legislature's Timeline



Letter From The Director

Greetings! Welcome to CHBRP's Fall Quarterly Newsletter.

Early rains and a respite from drought conditions have been welcome across California this Fall. As the leaves change and temperatures moderate, we hope that all of our readers are enjoying some time outside as the season of change is upon us.

CHBRP was recently recognized by the President of the University, Michael Drake, in a video message provided by him, in honor of CHBRP's 20 years of service and excellence. We were very touched by the recognition.



In early November, CHBRP's Staff, Faculty Taskforce, and National Advisory Council assembled together at UC Berkeley to discuss CHBRP's work and consider ways to improve our work. This was our first in-person meeting of all our contributors in several years. While virtual meetings have been instrumental in making things work well over the past several years, it just isn't quite the same. The full exchange of ideas, deeper engagement, and robust discussions and connections among campus teams are better in person. We were very grateful and excited to bring everyone together again.

In case you missed it: On October 11th, CHBRP submitted to the Legislature our Independent Study on Prior Authorization. This was in response to a request from the California Assembly and Senate Committees on Health in the Spring. More details on this Study, including links, are below.

We are hard at work preparing for the next legislative season, which sometimes arrives early as two-year bills are heard in January. Our teams have been actively reviewing report templates, updating the California Cost and Coverage Model, and meeting virtually with many of our stakeholders. We are also hard at work on another important analysis request, Senate Bill 839, the Obesity Treatment Parity Act. We anticipate submitting this analysis before the end of December. Until next time!

Until next time!
Garen

Updates from CHBRP

Thank you to CHBRP's Summer Interns

Thank you to CHBRP's Health Career Connections Undergraduate Interns! Brianna and Valerie joined CHBRP in June for their 10 week internship.



Brianna Harris is an undergraduate student at the University of California, Davis, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Public Health. Through her educational experiences at UC Davis, she has been inspired to gain a further understanding of the various mechanisms utilized to improve public health. Ms. Harris is continuing with CHBRP as a student assistant for the Fall quarter.



Valerie Lobato is a recent graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor's in public health. Ms. Lobato's coursework has prepared her to think about health policy more critically and understand the impacts of the Affordable Care Act. She is originally from Bell, California.

CHBRP's 2023 Analyses

CHBRP has completed **20 analyses** of 19 bills, in addition to a special research study on prior authorization, so far in 2023.

CHBRP is currently analyzing SB 839 (Bradford) Obesity Treatment Parity Act.

Status of Bills Analyzed by CHBRP

As of October 14, 2023

	Passed First Chamber	Passed Second Chamber	Signed or Vetoed by Gov Newsom
AB 85 Social Determinants of Health*			Vetoed
AB 620 Metabolic Disorders*			Vetoed
AB 716 Emergency Ground Medical Transport*			Signed
AB 874 Out-of-pocket Expenses			
AB 907 Coverage for PANDAS and PANS*			Vetoed
AB 1048 Dental Benefits and Rate Review*			Signed
AB 1060 Naloxone Hydrochloride*			Vetoed
AB 1157 Durable Medical Equipment and Services*			
AB 1288 Medication-Assisted Treatment*			Vetoed
AB 1451 Behavioral Health Crisis Treatment*			Vetoed
AB 1645 Cost Sharing*			Vetoed
SB 70 Prescription Drug Coverage*			
SB 90 Insulin Affordability*			Vetoed
SB 339 HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis and Postexposure Prophylaxis*			
SB 427 Antiretroviral Drugs, Devices, and Products*			
SB 621 Biosimilar Drugs*			Signed
SB 635 Hearing Aids			Vetoed
SB 694 Medi-Cal: Self-Monitored Blood Pressure Devices and Services*			Vetoed
SB 729 Treatment for Infertility and Fertility Services*			

*Amended since CHBRP published its analysis

Take a look at the **"Status of Bills"** page to see the portions of CHBRP analyses that remain relevant after amendments are made to analyzed bills. This is available on CHBRP's website under Completed Analyses.

[Completed Analyses](#)

Videos on Key Topics

Do you wish you could watch a short (1-2 minute) video about CHBRP, health insurance benefit mandates, or the sources of health insurance in California? Now you can!



CHBRP has posted the first batch of short videos providing key information in a visual format. Let us know if you have an idea for our next video.

[View Videos](#)

Special Study on Prior Authorization

The Assembly and Senate Committees on Health requested that CHBRP provide a Study to help the California Legislature understand the ways in which state-regulated health plans and insurers utilize prior authorization to control and manage covered health care services, treatments, medications, devices, durable medical equipment, and pharmaceutical products.

To comply with the Committees' request and to provide appropriate context, this Study includes:

- An introduction to prior authorization, including the process for providers and health plans/insurers;
- An overview of spending on health care in the United States, including excess health care spending and medical fraud and waste;
- A review of evidence regarding the impacts of prior authorization and patient and provider experiences;
- The use of prior authorization within Medicare, Medi-Cal, and national commercial insurers; and
- Findings from a CHBRP-administered survey of commercial California insurers.

This report is intended to help policymakers better understand this complex topic.

[View the Study](#)

Recent Publications

CHBRP has recently published or updated a number of documents:

Explainers

- [Health Insurance in California 101: A quick guide](#)

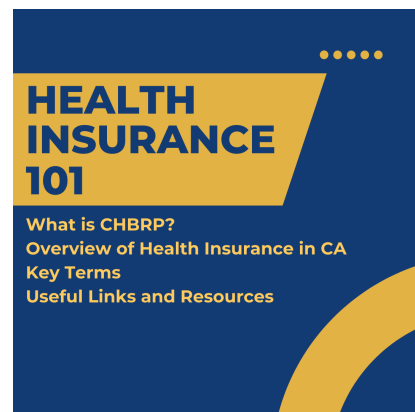
Resources

- [Federal Recommendations and the California and Federal Preventive Services Benefit Mandates](#)

Issue Briefs

- [Essential Health Benefits: An Overview of Benefits, Benchmark Plan Options, and EHBs in California](#)
- [Essential Health Benefits: Exceeding EHBs and the Defrayal Requirement](#)

[View Publications](#)



Task Force Spotlight



Congratulations to Marilyn Stebbins, PharmD, FCSHP!

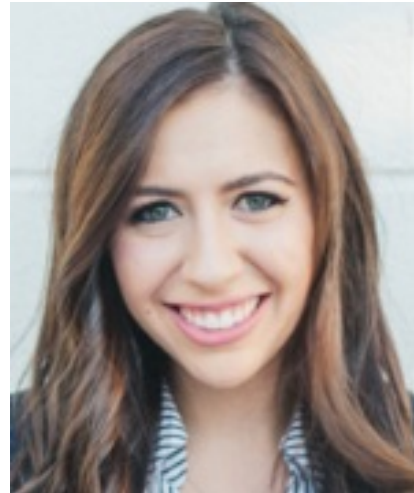
Dr. Stebbins, a CHBRP Task Force Member, has been announced as the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Pharmacist of the Year! This annual award is presented to one member who has made significant and sustained contributions to the pharmacy practice in California. CHBRP is thrilled to celebrate Dr. Stebbins and is grateful for her years of dedication to analysis of introduced California legislation.

[Read the full announcement.](#)

Each newsletter, CHBRP features two Task Force members and the important work they do outside of CHBRP. See more information about all of our Task Force members on CHBRP's [website](#).

Bethney Bonilla-Herrera, MA

Bethney Bonilla-Herrera is a research analyst for the University of California, Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research, where she is involved in various health services research studies. Her current projects focus on health policy, social determinants of health, telemedicine, and mental health. She provides project management, conducts qualitative interviews, fosters community engagement in research, analyzes policy, performs literature reviews, and analyzes data.



According to Ms. Bonilla-Herrera, the most rewarding part of her current work is collaborating with community partners in research. Ms. Bonilla-Herrera is grateful for the opportunity to engage with multiple community advisory boards in the research she does. She believes health research designed and conducted alongside community to be the most impactful and well translated into practice. Additionally, Ms. Bonilla-Herrera enjoys conducting qualitative interviews and learning from patients directly about their healthcare experiences.

Ms. Bonilla-Herrera is a member of the Public Health team at CHBRP. A highlight of her work with CHBRP is working with and learning from her passionate team members. She enjoys applying her research skills to inform health policy.

Prior to joining UC Davis, Ms. Bonilla worked as an investigative journalist and earned her M.A. in Data Journalism from Stanford University. Through her work in journalism, she had the opportunity to learn from people's experiences with the healthcare system and the impacts of health policy. Her involvement

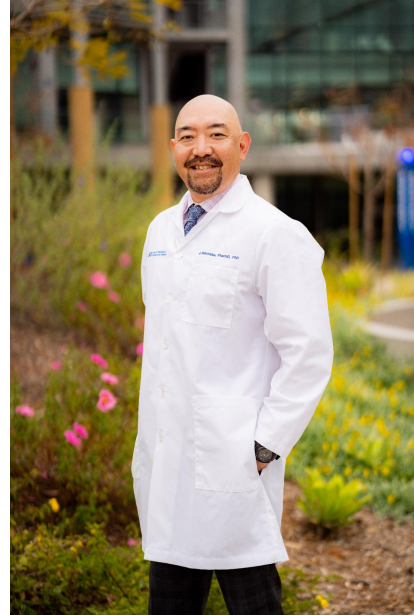
with CHBRP gives her the opportunity to use research to directly impact California policy decisions.

Throughout her career, Ms. Bonilla is proud of her commitment to people's stories and dedication to translational research. As a Central Valley native, she is committed to ensuring untold stories from underserved communities are incorporated into policy analyses in order to aid improved decision-making. Her goal is to continue to emphasize the importance of community-engagement in research.

Jonathan Watanabe, PharmD, MS, PhD

Jonathan Watanabe is a health economist, health outcomes researcher, and a board-certified geriatric pharmacist. In his academic career, Dr. Watanabe holds several leadership roles at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). He is the Founding Associate Dean of Pharmacy Assessment and Quality and a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Additionally, he is the Director of the Center for Data-Driven Drugs Research and Policy (C3DRP) at UCI. Independent of his work at UCI, Dr. Watanabe holds membership on the

Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.



As a CHBRP Faculty Task Force Member, Dr. Watanabe serves as an advisor and reviewer for teams analyzing health insurance benefit-related bills. As a pharmacist and health policy researcher, Dr. Watanabe provides valuable insights for topics that involve prescription medications, such as situations when legislative bills would modify the types of medications covered. Dr. Watanabe appreciates that his participation in CHBRP allows him to work with other faculty and researchers across the University of California's campuses on a broad discipline of topics depending on the Legislature's interest. Additionally, he appreciates that the work he does with CHBRP is accessible and greatly utilized by several entities at a state and national level.

Across all of his work, Dr. Watanabe finds it gratifying that he is able to build meaningful connections with his fellow members as they work towards similar goals of providing valuable information to the public. Dr. Watanabe also enjoys the puzzle solving components of all of his work; using his honed analytical skills to fit the puzzle pieces together and identify solutions to major policy issues is one of the most rewarding aspects of his work.

During his career, Dr. Watanabe has been most proud about his contributions to the report, ***Making Medicines Affordable: A National Imperative***. The report, published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, investigates how to make medication affordable for patients whilst protecting innovation for top pharmaceutical manufacturing entities. This resource has informed the Federal government on blueprints for solutions to pharmaceutical issues for programs such as Medicare.

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