

The Impact of *H pylori* Eradication on Your Pharmacy Budget: Introduction

This Special Report supplement to *The American Journal of Managed Care* explores clinical and economic issues related to *H pylori* testing and eradication in the management of peptic ulcer disease.

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This supplement provides state-of-the-art information on *H pylori* infection, its eradication, and the cost effectiveness of eradication therapy. It features

two articles based on presentations delivered at a breakfast seminar held in Seattle on October 31, 1997, in conjunction with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacists 1997 Educational Conference.

In the first of these articles, Joseph P. Reilly, PharmD, provides a comprehensive overview of *H pylori*, its epidemiology, and the physical characteristics that enable the organism to cause ulcer disease.

In the second, M. Brian Fennerty, MD, FACP, FACG, reviews the clinical efficacy of several commonly used eradication regimens and describes economic models designed to determine the cost effectiveness of eradication therapy. As he points out, it is the clinical efficacy of the regimen that determines cost effectiveness, not the drug acquisition costs.

Highlights of a thought-provoking question-and-answer session at the seminar are also presented within these pages, as are a clinician interview with Emmanuel Saltiel, PharmD, who addresses formulary issues and other efficacy and economic concerns of *H pylori* treatment in the managed care setting; a case study by Edward J. Drea, PharmD, that evaluates the outcomes achieved through peptic ulcer disease state management; and a guest review article on clinical treatments of *H pylori* by William Garnett, PharmD.