

ELLEN O'BRIEN

Health Policy Institute
Georgetown University
3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W. Suite 5000
Campus Box 571444
Washington, D.C. 20057

202-687-3867 (voice)
202-687-3110 (facsimile)
obriene@georgetown.edu (email)

EDUCATION

- 1998 Doctor of Philosophy in Economics
 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana
- 1988 Master of Arts in Economics
 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
- 1986 Bachelor of Science, *cum laude*, in Economics
 College of Arts and Sciences, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Georgetown University

Health Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.

January 1998-present

Research Associate Professor

Conduct strategic, policy-focused research on health care and long-term care finance, focusing on both public programs and private insurance. Research funded by private foundations (Kaiser Family Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and government agencies (primarily MedPAC and ASPE). Recent projects include: the impact of the Medicaid long-term care reforms in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005; consequences of Medicare Part D for dual eligibles and other low-income Medicare beneficiaries; evolution of state pharmacy assistance programs; assessment of the need for and impact of standardizing benefits in Medicare Advantage plans; qualitative assessment of the role of long-term care hospitals in Medicare.

Health Care Financing Administration (now, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

January 1994-December 1997

Policy Analyst, Office of Strategic Planning (1996-1997)

Conducted policy research to support the development of future directions in Medicare and Medicaid. Synthesized technical information and empirical research to prepare policy papers, chartbooks, testimony, and briefings on health policy issues in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Topics included: demographics and characteristics of the Medicare and Medicaid populations, trends in Medicare and health spending; Medicare reform; long-term care; and beneficiaries with disabilities and chronic illness.

Special Assistant to the Administrator, Office of the Administrator (Bruce C. Vladeck) (March-April 1997)

Provided technical assistance to the Administrator on special projects: prepared report on prison health care and legal issues in the use of Medicare funds to pay for prisoners' health care; reviewed scope of work for the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization contract; reviewed Provider Reimbursement Review Board decisions.

Social Science Research Analyst, Office of Research and Demonstrations (January 1994-December 1995)

Conducted original research on long-term care delivery and financing; responsible for managing the implementation of federally funded evaluations of Medicare and Medicaid demonstration programs, including the evaluation of prospective payment system demonstration for Medicare skilled nursing facilities. Responsible for contracting and management of federally funded research on long-term care.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles:

- E. O'Brien, "Risk Shifting: What's Wrong with the Long-Term Care Reforms in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005," Marquette University Law School Symposium, Elder Care SNAFU? Long-term Care after the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, *Elder's Advisor*, Forthcoming 2007.
- E. O'Brien, "Medicare and Medicaid: Trends and Issues Affecting Access to Care for Low-Income Elders and People with Disabilities," *Generations*, Spring 2005, 29 (1): 65-70.
- E. O'Brien, "Employers' Benefits from Workers' Health Insurance," *Milbank Quarterly* (81:1), Spring 2003.
- J. Feder, L. Levitt, E. O'Brien, and D. Rowland. "Covering the Low-Income Uninsured: Why Expanding Public Programs Makes Sense," *Health Affairs*, January/February 2001.
- M. Davis and E. O'Brien. "Profile of Persons with Disabilities in Medicare and Medicaid," *Health Care Financing Review*, 17, 4, 1996.

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

- Feder, J., C. Uccello, and E. O'Brien. The Difference Different Approaches Make: Comparing Proposals to Expand Health Insurance," in Charlene Harrington and Carroll L. Estes, eds., *Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2001.
- Vladeck, B., E. O'Brien, T. Hoyer, and S. Clauser. Confronting the Ambivalence of Disability Policy: Has Push Come to Shove?" in V. P. Reno, et al., eds., *Disability: Challenges for Social Insurance, Health Care Financing and Labor Market Policy*, 1997.
- O'Brien, E. "How 'G' Got Into the GNP," in K. I. Vaughn, ed., *Perspectives on the History of Economic Thought*, Volume X, New York: Edward Elgar Press, 1994.

ISSUE BRIEFS, SHORT WORKS & REPORTS

- E. O'Brien, *Can the Elderly Rely on their Home Equity to Pay for Long-Term Care?* Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, forthcoming 2007.
- E. O'Brien, *The Long-Term Care Partnership Program: What Role Will it Play in Broader Long-Term Care Policy?* Washington, D.C.: Alliance for Health Reform, forthcoming 2007.
- E. O'Brien and J. Hoadley, *Should Medicare Advantage Benefits Be More Standardized?* New York: The Commonwealth Fund, forthcoming 2007.
- E. O'Brien and M. Merlis, *Medicaid's Spousal Impoverishment Protections*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, February 2007.
- E. O'Brien, *Medicare and Long-Term Care*, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, February 2007.
- E. O'Brien, J. Hoadley, S. Goodell, C. Williams, *State Pharmacy Assistance Programs: How Have States Responded to Medicare Part D?* Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, January 2006.
- E. O'Brien, *Long-Term Care: Understanding Medicaid's Role for the Elderly and Disabled*. Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, November 2005.

Issue Briefs, Short Works & Reports, continued

- S. Goodell, C. Williams, J. Hoadley, E. O'Brien, *State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs vs. Medicare Prescription Drug Plans: How Do They Contain Rising Costs?* October 2005.
- C. Williams, J. Hoadley, S. Goodell, E. O'Brien, *State Pharmacy Assistance Programs at a Crossroads: How will they Respond to Medicare Part D?* August 2005.
- E. O'Brien, *Medicaid Coverage of Nursing Home Care: Asset Shelter for the Wealthy or Essential Safety Net?* Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University, May 2005.
- E. O'Brien, *CMS Programs and Initiatives to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Medicare*. Report Prepared for the Study Panel on Medicare's Role in Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health, National Academy of Social Insurance, January 2005.
- L. White, A. Ketchel, et al. *Chemotherapy Services Provided to Medicare Beneficiaries: Five Markets' Experiences with Initial Changes in Medicare Payment Policy*. Washington, D.C.: Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, April 2005.
- E. Hargrave, J. Hoadley, E. O'Brien, et al. *Implementation Issues for the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Lessons Learned from the Medicare Drug Discount Card And Low-Income Benefit Programs*, Washington, D.C.: Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, March 2005.
- J. Benz, D. Gaylin, J. Hoadley, E. O'Brien et al. *Employer and Health Plan Transitions to New Pharmacy Benefit Managers: Lessons for Medicare*. Washington, D.C. Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, May 2004.
- E. O'Brien and R. Elias. *Long-Term Care and Medicaid*, Washington, D.C., Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, May 2004.
- D. Gaylin, I. Gil, J. Hoadley, A. Ketchel, A. Moiduddin, and E. O'Brien. *The Role of Long-Term Care Hospitals in Post-Acute Care: Case Studies in Four Communities*, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, October 2003.
- E. O'Brien, *Is Prescription Drug Coverage for the Low-Income Elderly Cost Effective? A Review of the Literature*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University. Prepared for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, October 2003.
- E. O'Brien and C. Mann. *Maintaining the Gains: The Importance of Preserving Coverage in Medicaid and SCHIP*. Columbia, SC: Covering Kids and Families, Southern Institute Children and Families, June 2003.
- A. Shields, E. O'Brien, and D. Gaskin. *Commitment to Caring: The Role of Catholic Hospitals in the Health Care Safety Net*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic Health Association of the United States, November 2002.
- E. O'Brien, *Health and the Bottom Line: Do Health and Health Coverage Matter to Employers? What the Evidence Shows*. Washington, D.C.: Employee Benefits Research Institute, October 2001.
- E. O'Brien and K. Pollitz. *Health Insurance in the U.S. and Options for Coverage Expansion*, Prepared for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, May 2001.
- E. O'Brien, "Point-Counterpoint: Are Tax Credits the Best Way to Expand Coverage?" *Physicians Weekly*, March 12, 2001, Vol. 28, No. 11.
- J. Feder, L. Levitt, and E. O'Brien. *Options for Covering the Low-Income Uninsured: Tax Credits and Public Programs*, Washington, D.C.: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, November 2000.

Issue Briefs, Short Works & Reports, continued

- E. O'Brien, *Prevailing Wages, "Living Wages" and Health Insurance Benefits*, Prepared for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, October 2000.
- J. Feder and E. O'Brien. *Alternative Proposals to Expand Coverage: A Consumer Perspective*, Washington, D.C.: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, September 2000.
- E. O'Brien, *How Much Does Insurance Matter?* Washington, D.C.: The Alliance for Health Reform, May 2000.
- E. O'Brien, J. Feder, and M. Niefeld, *Long-Term Care: Medicaid's Role and Challenges*, Washington, D.C.: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, November 1999.
- J. Feder, C. Uccello, E. O'Brien, *The Difference Different Approaches Make: Alternative Approaches to Expanding Health Insurance*, Project on Incremental Health Reform, Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation, October 1999.
- E. O'Brien and J. Feder, *Employment-Based Health Insurance Coverage and its Decline: the Growing Plight of Low-Wage Workers*, Washington, D.C.: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, May 1999.
- E. O'Brien, D. Rowland, and P. Keenan, *Medicare and Medicaid for the Low-Income Elderly and Disabled*, Washington, D.C.: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, May 1999.
- E. O'Brien, A. Shields, and K. Pollitz, *The Uninsured: A Report on Health Insurance Coverage in America and Options for Reform*, Washington, D.C.: The American Academy of Family Physicians, February 1999.
- E. O'Brien and J. Feder, *How Well Does the Employment-Based Health Insurance System Work for Low-Income Families?* Washington, D.C.: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, September 1998.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SEMINARS

- Risk Shifting: What's Wrong with the Long-Term Care Reforms in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005?* Marquette University Law School Symposium, Elder Care SNAFU? Long-term Care after the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Milwaukee, WI, March 29, 2007.
- Trends in Health Care Costs and Coverage*, Daimler-Chrysler-UAW Health Policy Panel, Washington, D.C., March 28, 2006.
- Likely Effects of the Asset Transfer Provisions in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005*. Seminar on Long-Term Care Finance, Albany, NY, March 16, 2006.
- Retirement Security: Long-Term Care Risks and Medicaid's Role*, Seminar on the Social Safety Net, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., October 21, 2005.
- CMS Programs and Initiatives to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Medicare*. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Boston, MA, June 28, 2005.
- An Overview of State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs*. National Multiple Sclerosis Society Annual Public Policy Conference, Washington, D.C., June 4, 2004.
- What are the Problems in Health Care Today?* Daimler/Chrysler-UAW Health Policy Panels Washington, D.C., May 20, 2003.

Conference Presentations & Seminars, continued

Is Prescription Drug Coverage for the Low-Income Elderly Cost Effective? Washington, D.C. Kaiser Family Foundation, May 15, 2003.

Maintaining the Gains: The Importance of Preserving Coverage in Medicaid and SCHIP, Washington, D.C., May 7, 2003.

Trends in Health Care Costs and Coverage, November 21, 2002, GM-UAW Health Policy Panel, Washington, D.C.

Commitment to Caring: The Role of Catholic Hospitals in the Safety Net, November 18, 2002, U.S. Capitol.

Trends in Health Care Costs and Coverage, OB-GYN Grand Rounds, Georgetown University Hospital, November 7, 2002.

Health and the Bottom Line: Do Health and Health Coverage Matter to Employers? Subcommittee on the Societal Costs of Uninsured Populations, Institute of Medicine, Washington, D.C., July 16, 2002.

What are the Problems in Health Care Today? GM-UAW & Daimler/Chrysler-UAW Health Policy Panels, Washington, D.C., September 2001, and May/June 2002.

Racial Disparities in Health and Health Care, America Becoming: Racial Trends and their Consequences for the Nation, Virginia and Hampton Roads, Center for the Study of Equality, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, October 9, 2001.

Risks of Medicare Reform for Vulnerable Populations, Allied Social Sciences Association, January 2001, New Orleans, LA.

Medicare Reform, GM-UAW & Daimler/Chrysler-UAW Health Policy Panels, October/November 2000.

The Uninsured, Georgetown University Forum, WMZQ 98.7 FM, August 2000, Rockville, MD.

How Much Does Insurance Matter? The Impact of Insurance Coverage on Access and Outcomes, Alliance for Health Reform, Washington, D.C., May 2000.

Approaches to Expanding Health Insurance Coverage, GM/UAW Health Policy Panel, August 1998, March 1999, May and June 2000.

A Policy Perspective on Dual Eligibles, American Academy of Health Plans, Medicaid Conference, Arlington, VA, September 1999.

Health Insurance Coverage and Options for Reform, American Academy of Family Physicians, Bethesda, MD, May 1999.

Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance Coverage: The Growing Plight of Low-Wage Workers, Georgetown University Health Policy Seminar, October 1998.

Developments in Disability Policy in Medicare and Medicaid, Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North American (RESNA) State Technical Assistance Conference, Arlington, VA, October 1996.

Putting Housework in the GNP: Toward a Feminist Accounting? Out of the Margin: Feminist Perspective on Economic Theory, University of Amsterdam, and International Association for Feminist Economics, American University, June and August 1993.

How 'G' Got into the GNP 19th Annual Conference of the History of Economics Society, George Mason University, May 1992.

AWARDS

- 1997 Administrator's Achievement Award, Health Care Financing Administration
1995 Administrator's Achievement Award, Health Care Financing Administration
1993 Burlington Teaching Fellowship, University of Notre Dame
1992 Bourgin Memorial Dissertation Fellowship, Economic Policy Institute
1991 McGee Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Notre Dame

TEACHING

- 1986-1988 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Iowa
Principles of Macroeconomics (4 semesters)
1989-1993 Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Notre Dame,
Principles of Macroeconomics (4 semesters)
Freshman Writing Seminar (1 semester)
2000-2001 Professor, Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University
Health Economics II (2 semesters)
Spring 2007 Professor, Department of Health Systems Administration, Georgetown University
Healthcare Economics (1 semester)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/AFFILIATIONS

- Member: Academy Health.
Referee, *Health Affairs*, *Milbank Quarterly*, *Health Care Financing Review*.
Member, HCFA Technical Expert Panel, "Measuring and Improving the Performance of Medicare+Choice Organizations Serving Disabled Medicare Beneficiaries," April and December 2000.

February 2007