

# PROTECTING MEDICAL INNOVATION IN NEW JERSEY & BEYOND FROM ICER

Why Patients & Innovation May Be Under Threat & How You Can Take Action

## What Is ICER & What Does ICER Do?

Patients and innovation itself may be endangered by the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER).

ICER is an independent, Boston-based research group that uses a controversial approach to evaluate the value and cost-effectiveness of new drugs. ICER uses the "Quality Adjusted Life Years" (QALY) methodology in an effort to determine whether medical treatments for particular diseases and conditions such as cystic fibrosis, ulcerative colitis, and COVID-19 are worth their cost.

## The QALY: A One-Size-Fits-All Approach to Drug Value Assessment

The "Quality Adjusted Life Years" (QALY) methodology to evaluate drug value is subjective and could limit Patient access to innovative treatments.



WHY THE QALY SPELLS DANGER FOR PATIENTS:

**QALY uses an arbitrary evaluation** of one year of perfect health to determine drug value.

**ICER uses the QALY to issue reports** on FDA-approved medications.

**Policymakers and insurers are using ICER reports** more often to determine – and often limit – treatment coverage.

## The QALY Discriminates Against Vulnerable Patient Populations

The QALY discriminates against certain Patients who may never achieve the QALY definition of "perfect health" and thus, are deemed by ICER to be economically worth less than younger, healthier individuals.

**Zero.** Between 2014 and 2018, none of ICER's reviews of rare disease drugs resulted in a "high value" rating.



“Physicians — not ICER — should be making treatment decisions for their Patients... One-size-fits-all cost-effectiveness reviews, such as those used by ICER, limit access to care for Patients.”

—BioNJ President & CEO Debbie Hart

## What ICER's Methods Mean for Patients & Medical Innovation

ICER could bring innovation to a halt and limit Patient access to critical medicines.

If ICER reports are used more broadly, it could limit incentives for future investments in the life sciences industry, threaten New Jersey's 3,300 life sciences establishments, and ultimately prevent Patients from accessing breakthrough, often life-saving medicines.



**Take Action to Protect Patients & Medical Innovation from ICER**

Visit the website below to join us in our efforts.

Because Patients Can't Wait®, BioNJ is committed to protecting medical innovation in New Jersey and around the world.

Join BioNJ in our efforts to advocate for policies and solutions that help Patients access the medicines they need and protect innovation.

[BioNJ.org/Protect-Medical-Innovation](https://www.bionj.org/Protect-Medical-Innovation)

