



*Providing Insights that Contribute  
to Better Health Policy*

## **Prescription Drug Access: Not Just a Medicare Problem**

*Tuesday, April 9, 2002*

### **Participant Biographies**

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#### **PETER J. CUNNINGHAM, Ph.D. — Senior Health Researcher, Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC)**

Peter Cunningham is a senior health researcher at HSC, and his research focuses on assessing the impact of health system change on consumers, with a particular emphasis on how these changes affect people's health insurance coverage, access to health services and quality of care. Prior to joining HSC, Cunningham was a researcher at the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, now known as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, where he worked on the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey, including the Household Survey, the Survey of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and the Institutional Population Component. Cunningham's work has been widely published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including *Health Affairs*, *Health Services Research*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, *Medical Care*, *Medical Care Research and Review*, and *Social Science and Medicine*. Cunningham earned his doctorate in sociology from Purdue University.

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#### **JOAN HENNEBERRY — Director of Health Policy Studies Division, National Governors Association**

Joan Henneberry is the director of the health policy studies division at the National Governors Association (NGA), Center for Best Practices, in Washington, D.C. Since joining NGA in March 1997, her work has focused on policy analysis and providing technical assistance to states on programs and financing of health care for the uninsured, children's health and public health. Prior to moving to Washington, she held several positions at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, including the director of women's health. As part of the maternal and child health management team, she worked with program staff for children with special health care needs and state systems development. Henneberry has served on women's health advisory committees and provided technical expertise in the public and private sectors at the state, regional and national level. She has worked in public health and health policy for 25 years as an educator, counselor, advocate and administrator. Henneberry has bachelor's degrees in sociology and education and a master's degree in management.

**LEIGHTON KU, Ph.D., — Senior Health Policy Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy  
Priorities**

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Leighton Ku is a senior fellow in health policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan policy analysis and research organization that focuses on policies affecting low-income Americans. He has been involved in Medicaid research and analysis for more than a decade and has written numerous papers and articles about Medicaid and health care for low-income families and children. Prior to joining the center, he was a senior researcher at the Urban Institute. Ku earned a doctorate in health policy from Boston University and a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley.

**LEN NICHOLS, Ph.D. — Vice President, HSC**

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Len Nichols is vice president at HSC, where he helps shape HSC's research agenda to provide timely and relevant information to policy makers about the nation's changing health system. An economist, Nichols is a health policy expert who has written and published extensively on a variety of topics, including insurance market regulation, the effect of tax policy on health insurance purchase decisions and private insurance options for Medicare. Nichols also has testified before Congress several times and testified before the Bipartisan Medicare Reform Commission about competitive vs. administered prices. Previously, he was a principal research associate at the Urban Institute and a senior adviser for health policy at the Office of Management and Budget. Nichols earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.