



Speed matters. Get real-time quotes now.

More

Enter Symbol(s) or Keyword(s)

Welcome, please [sign in](#).
[My Portfolio](#) • [Community](#) • [VSE](#) • [Alerts](#)

FRONT PAGE **NEWS & COMMENTARY**

[Columnists](#) [First Take](#) [Special Reports](#) [Blogs](#) [Podcasts](#) [Industry News](#) [Economy & Politics](#) [Newsletters](#) [Obama's Challenge](#)

BULLETIN **DOW INDUSTRIALS UP 150 POINTS AS WEEK OPENS WITH U.S. STOCK ADVANCE**

PRESS RELEASE

Thomson Reuters Analysis Sheds Light on Potentially Wasteful Medical Care Identified by National Priorities Partnership Healthcare Business of Thomson Reuters Endorses National Priorities and Goals Announced Today

Last update: 3:40 p.m. EST Nov. 17, 2008

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov 17, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Medical procedures and services identified by the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) as potentially wasteful were found to cost U.S. employers and patients billions of dollars each year, according to an analysis by Thomson Reuters.

The NPP is a coalition of 28 organizations from across the healthcare field convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF) to set national priorities and goals for healthcare reform. The national priorities were unveiled today at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

The Healthcare business of Thomson Reuters, a member of the NQF, endorses the NPP initiative. "With the cost of healthcare services continuing to skyrocket and the quality chasm being bridged all too slowly, we are pleased to support this promising initiative," said Dr. Lou Diamond, medical director for the Healthcare business of Thomson Reuters and chair of the NQF Quality Measurement, Research and Improvement Council. "It provides a clear roadmap for action that stakeholders can take within their organizations to contribute to meaningful healthcare reform at the national level.

"Thomson Reuters is dedicated to delivering information and analyses that help all segments of the healthcare industry identify opportunities to lower costs and improve the quality of medical care," Diamond said. "In that spirit, we have taken a closer look at one of the NPP goals -- eliminating waste and overuse by reducing unwarranted diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and services."

Thomson Reuters researchers conducted a preliminary analysis of the cost and use of medical procedures that, according to the NPP, may be administered unnecessarily. They assessed the healthcare experience of U.S. residents under the age of 65 who have employer-sponsored health insurance (approximately 170 million people). The study found that:

-- One of the targeted procedures, endoscopy, cost employers and their health plan enrollees \$6.55 billion in 2006 -- up nearly 50 percent from \$4.43 billion in 1999.

-- Spending for another targeted procedure, lumbar spine MRI, rose nearly 87 percent from \$792 million in 1999 to \$1.48 billion in 2006.

"If these procedures and services were conducted unnecessarily even 10 percent of the time, then targeted reforms can generate significant savings and improve patient outcomes," Diamond said. "These types of analyses can transform the healthcare system, one step at a time, by identifying areas where improvement initiatives will bear the most fruit."

Many Thomson Reuters information solutions help healthcare organizations address the priorities established by the NPP. Here are a few examples:

NPP Priority: Improve the Health of the Population

-- Thomson Reuters Health and Productivity Management services help employers and health plans evaluate the effectiveness and return-on-investment of their workplace wellness initiatives.

-- The company's Medstat Advantage Suite(R) decision support system allows healthcare payer organizations to analyze the utilization, quality and appropriateness of healthcare services delivered to their beneficiaries.

NPP Priority: Engage Patients and Families in Healthcare Decision-Making

LATEST HEADLINES
MARKETS NEWS

Monday's biggest gaining and declining ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 09:48 AM

Gold rises to five-week high on weaker ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 09:42 AM

Campbell reports profit fall, meets Street ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 09:19 AM

U.S. stock futures point to opening rise ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 09:08 AM

Oil gains as dollar weakens, U.S. stock ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 08:58 AM

U.K. readies stimulus; France, Germany ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 08:47 AM

Citigroup, Johnson & Johnson, Xerox in ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 08:42 AM

Citi soars after U.S. steps in to backstop ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 08:26 AM

Johnson & Johnson to acquire Omrix ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 07:10 AM

Nomura Holdings: No decision on ...
Mon, Nov 24, 2008 - 03:14 AM

[MarketWatch](#) [More Markets News](#)

Weekly Roundup E-newsletter



Find out the top ten MarketWatch stories of the week.

Enter your email address

[Privacy policy](#)

MOST POPULAR

READ | E-MAILED | EDITOR'S PICK

1. [Citi soars after U.S. steps in to backstop losses](#)
2. [U.S. stock futures point to opening rise on Citi rescue](#)
3. [Stocks broadly decline, despite Citigroup bailout](#)
4. [MSNBC: The 'M' now stands for \(Rachel\) Maddow](#)
5. [Congressional leaders clash over economic stimulus](#)
6. [Stocks look cheap, but that doesn't mean you should buy](#)
7. [Monday's biggest gaining and declining stocks](#)
8. [We'll be in Great Depression 2 by 2011 -- here are 30 reasons why](#)
9. [Citigroup, Johnson & Johnson, Xerox in spotlight](#)
10. [Stocks in Europe climb after Citi rescue plan unveiled](#)

[Get the Latest MarketWatch News >>](#)

PARTNER CENTER



Get 100 Commission-Free Trades.



Switch to Scottrade, get up to \$100 back

Sponsored Links

Fed Cuts Rates By 0.5%!

How will it affect your rate? \$180,000 Refinance for \$999/mo.
www.MortgageRatesExperts.com

Medical Care

Find Local & Nationwide Results on Medical Care
www.fittingdeals.com

Hugh Downs Reports

Little known heart attack symptom many people tragically ignore.
www.bottomlinesecrets.com

Top stories

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 44 minutes ago | U.S. stock futures point to opening rise on Citi rescue |
| 8:26 AM today | Citi soars after U.S. steps in to backstop losses |
| 5:01 AM today | German business climate poll plunges to 15-year low |

[Site Index](#) | [Topics](#) | [Archive](#) | [Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Media Archive](#) | [Premium Products](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Company Info](#) | [Advertising Media Kit](#) | [DJ Client Solutions](#)

The Wall Street Journal Digital Network:

[WSJ.com](#) | [Barron's Online](#) | [BigCharts](#) | [Virtual Stock Exchange](#) | [All Things Digital](#) | [MarketWatch Community](#)
[RealEstateJournal.com](#) | [Financial News Online](#) | [WSJ.com Small Business](#) | [FiLife - Personal Finance](#)

MarketWatch

Copyright © 2008 MarketWatch, Inc. All rights reserved.
By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).
MarketWatch.com: [Stock Market Quotes](#) - [Business News](#) - [Financial News](#)

Intraday data provided by [Interactive Data Real Time Services](#), a division of Interactive Data Corp. and subject to [terms of use](#). Historical and current end-of-day data provided by [Interactive Data Pricing and Reference Data](#). More information on [NASDAQ](#) traded symbols and their current financial status. Intraday data delayed 15 minutes for Nasdaq, and 20 minutes for other exchanges. Dow Jones Indexes(SM) from Dow Jones & Company, Inc. SEHK intraday data is provided by Comstock and is at least 60-minutes delayed. All quotes are in local exchange time. Real-time last sale data provided by NASDAQ.