

KAREN POLLITZ

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1997-present **Georgetown University Institute for Health Care Research and Policy** - Project Director. Joined Institute faculty to conduct research on health insurance reform issues that affect consumers and patients. Areas of focus include regulation of private health coverage by federal and state government, access to affordable health insurance, managed care consumer protections, and confidentiality of medical records. Research supported by government, private foundations and organizations representing consumers and patients.
- 1999-present **Georgetown University, Graduate Public Policy Institute** - Adjunct Professor, teaching graduate level seminar on health insurance reform policy and process.
- 1993-1997 **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Legislation. Legislative liaison on all federal health care issues, including national health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and U.S. Public Health Service agencies and programs. Advised Secretary and White House staff on policy issues and strategy. Supervised staff of 12 professionals.
- 1991-1993 **American Academy of Family Physicians** - Assistant Director, Washington Office. Principal drafter of and lobbyist for AAFP health care reform plan. Also responsible for policy development and advocacy on Medicare physician payment, graduate medical education reform, and other health care issues.
- spring 1992 **Marymount University, School of Business** - Instructor. Designed and taught course on managed health care.
- 1989-1991 **Office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV** - Legislative Assistant. Drafted legislation to reform Medicare physician payments, enacted in 1989. Staffed Chairman of Pepper Commission on recommendations for health care and long term care reform, reported in 1990.
- 1987-1989 **Office of Congressman Sander Levin** - Legislative Assistant. Drafted amendments to expand Medicare coverage of mental health services, enacted in 1987. Staff for health care issues under jurisdiction of Ways and Means Committee, as well as other health and social service issues.
- 1984-1987 **Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits** - Legislative Assistant. Staffed hearings, markups, and legislation relating to Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).
- 1982-1984 **Common Cause** - Research Associate. Responsible for issue development and advocacy on federal income tax reform.

RESEARCH GRANT AND CONTRACT PARTICIPATION

Principal Investigator – “How Accessible is Individual Health Insurance for People in Less-Than-Perfect-Health?” Study commissioned by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, June 2000 - June 2001. Survey of health insurers and HMOs in eight markets, testing their responses to seven hypothetical applicants, each with a moderate to serious health care condition or health history.

Principal Investigator – “Assessing Individual Health Insurance Markets in the Post-HIPAA Era,” Awarded by the Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, June 2000 - April 2001. Paper discussing role of individual market in current health care coverage and potential changes in the context of future health care reforms.

Principal Investigator - “Training and Empowerment of Consumer Organizations on Critical Health Insurance Issues.” Awarded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, August 1998 - December 2000. Design and direct seminars (on health insurance market reforms, managed care consumer protections, and privacy of health care information) for consumer organizations in 8 sites/7 states. Seminars provide technical training and opportunity to meet and interact with federal and state policy makers. Project to evaluate effectiveness of various approaches to educating the public and enhancing the involvement of consumers and their advocates in public policy decision making. Target evaluation report Spring 2002.

Principal Investigator - “Consumer Protection in Private Insurance: State Implementation and Enforcement Experience.” Awarded (through subcontract) by the Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, September 1999 - September 2000. Paper on state implementation experience with managed care consumer protections, especially those for the chronically ill and disabled, presented to HHS October 2000.

Co-principal Investigator - “External Review, an Update.” Awarded by the Kaiser Family Foundation, fall 1999. Issue brief to follow up on report published in November 1998, noting trends in recent state laws and voluntary private expansion of external review. Report published May 2000.

Co-principal Investigator - “Implementation of Private Health Plan Accreditation Standards Relating to External Review.” Awarded by the National Committee on Quality Assurance, fall 1999. Contract to provide technical assistance to NCQA on implementation of new external review accreditation standards and coordination of same with state laws.

Investigator - “Cataloging State Health Insurance Reform Laws.” Awarded by U.S. Health Care Financing Administration, April 1999 - September 1999. Documented laws in selected states adopted to satisfy federal health insurance portability protections under HIPAA and other state market reform laws.

Principal Investigator - “Implementation of Managed Care Consumer Protections in Missouri, New Jersey, Texas and Vermont.” Awarded by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, April 1998-April 1999. Co-authored case studies of state implementation issues in managed care and other health insurance consumer protection programs.

Principal Investigator - “The Uninsured: A Report on Health Insurance Coverage in America and

Considerations for Reform” Awarded by the American Academy of Family Physicians, February - May 1999. Co-author of a report to the AAFP Board of Directors on the problem of the uninsured and under-insured and policy considerations for reform.

Principal Investigator - “Monitoring the Implementation of ‘Kassebaum-Kennedy’” Awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, June 1997 - February 1999. Tracked the implementation of national and state health insurance reforms under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Co-author of consumer guides for each of the 50 states, distributed through the Internet, state governments, and organizations representing consumers and patients; also co-author of report on federalism in health insurance regulation and federal and state implementation of HIPAA. Original project concluded April 1999; work related to consumer guides is ongoing.

Co-principal Investigator - “External Review of Health Plan Decisions: An Overview of Key Program Features in the States and Medicare” Awarded by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, March-October 1998. Identified critical components of Medicare and state external appeals programs and analyzed the variation for policy makers considering establishment of such programs at federal and state level.

PUBLICATIONS

Karen Pollitz, Richard Sorian, and Kathy Thomas, (June 2001) “How Accessible is Individual Health Insurance for People in Less-Than-Perfect Health?” Report for the Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA. Available at www.kff.org.

Karen Pollitz and Deborah Chollet, (May 2001) “Assessing Individual Health Insurance Markets in the Post-HIPAA Era.” Report presented to the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC. (Publication forthcoming.)

Karen Pollitz, (2001) “Extending Health Insurance to Older Workers: How Well Have Policies Worked?” in Peter Budetti, et.al., editors, Ensuring Health and Income Security for an Aging Workforce. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Stephanie Lewis and Karen Pollitz, (September, 2000) “Consumer Protection in Private Insurance: State Implementation and Enforcement Experience.” Report presented to the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/consumer/stateimp/private.htm>.

Karen Pollitz, Nicole Tapay, Elizabeth Hadley, Jalena Specht, (July, 2000) “The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA): Early Experience with “New Federalism in Health Insurance Regulation.” Health Affairs, Volume 19, Number 4.

Geraldine Dallek and Karen Pollitz, “External Review, an Update.” (May, 2000) Issue brief describing trends in recent state laws and private expansion of external review programs.

Wendy Levinson, M.D., et. al. and Karen Pollitz, (1999) “Resolving Disagreements in the Patient-Physician Relationship, Tools for Improving Communication in Managed Care,” JAMA, Volume 282, Number 15, October 20, 1999.

Ron Patterson, Geraldine Dallek, Elizabeth Hadley, Karen Pollitz, and Nicole Tapay, (September 1999) “Implementation of Managed Care Consumer Protections in Missouri, New Jersey, Texas and Vermont.” Published by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA. Available at <http://www.kff.org>.

Ellen O’Brien, Alexandra Shields and Karen Pollitz, (May 1999) “The Uninsured: A Report on Health Insurance Coverage in America and Considerations for Reform.” Commissioned paper for the American Academy of Family Physicians, Washington, DC.

Karen Pollitz, Geraldine Dallek, Nicole Tapay, (November, 1998) “External Review of Health Plan Decisions: An Overview of Key Program Features in the States and Medicare,” published by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA. Available at <http://www.kff.org>.

Kimberly J. Calder and Karen Pollitz, (1998) “What Cancer Survivors Need to Know About Health Insurance.” Published by the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Silver Spring, MD.

Karen Pollitz, et.al., “A Consumer’s Guide to Getting and Keeping Health Insurance.” Consumer guides for each state and the District of Columbia available on the Internet at <http://www.healthinsuranceinfo.net>. Published initially in 1998 and updated periodically thereafter.

PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

National Academy of Social Insurance, member

National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA), member of Standards Committee

Suburban Hospital/Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Breast Center, member of Consumer Advisory Board

American Cancer Society, volunteer, Reach to Recovery Program

EDUCATION

1982 M.P.P., Graduate School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley

1980 B.A. With Honors, Oberlin College

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born July 20, 1958 in Peoria, Illinois

Married with two children