

## SUPPLEMENT

### Impact of “Money-Back” Guarantees on the Cost-Effectiveness of PCSK9 Inhibitors

#### Table of Contents

1. Technical Details Describing the Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model
2. Specific Model Adaptations for the Present Analysis
3. References

#### Appendix Tables

1. Key Input Parameters for the CVD Policy Model
2. Bivariate distribution of statin use and LDL-cholesterol level among individuals with a history of coronary heart disease or stroke in the CVD Policy Model (estimated from NHANES 2005-2012)
3. Rates of Myocardial Infarction in the CVD Policy Model, Conditional on Age, Sex, and Health State.
4. Model Validation: Comparisons of selected Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model simulation outputs for 2010 (model base year) with national targets for 2010.
5. FOURIER Model Validation. Rates of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) observed in the FOURIER trial and projected using the CVD Policy Model
6. Drug Costs
7. Sensitivity Analysis: Clinical and economic outcomes of PCSK9 Inhibitor therapy in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease over the lifetime analytic horizon assuming drug costs based on the Federal Supply Schedule.
8. Sensitivity Analysis: Clinical and economic outcomes of PCSK9 Inhibitor therapy in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease over the lifetime analytic horizon assuming complete market capture by generic ezetimibe.

#### Appendix Figures

1. Schematic of the Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model.

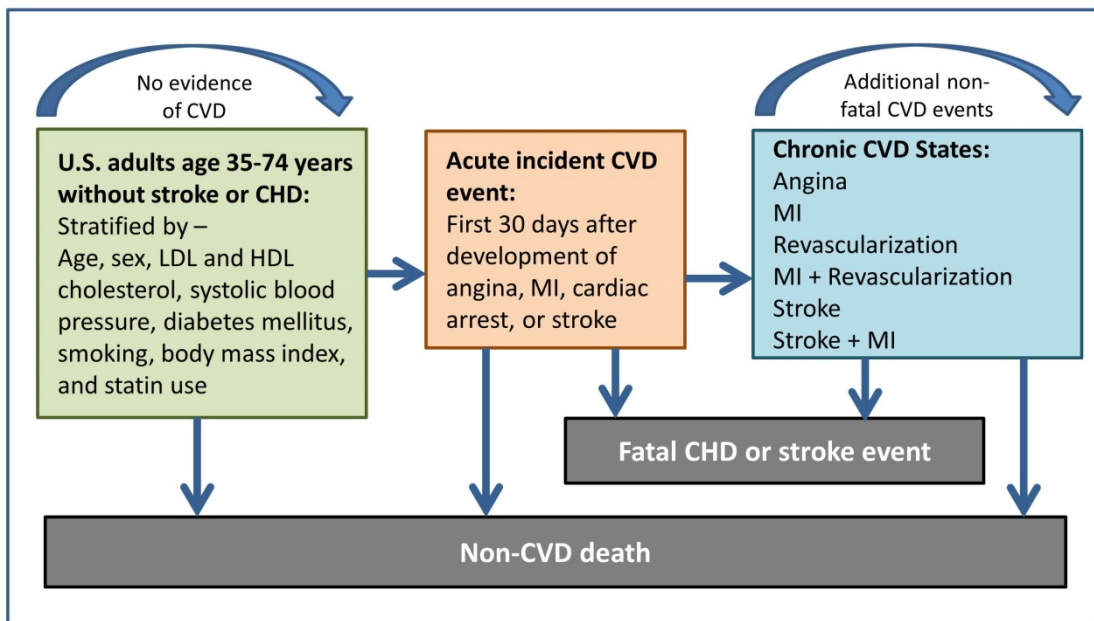


34 **Technical Details**

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36 **Overview of Model Structure**

37 The Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model is a state-transition Markov model of cardiovascular  
38 disease (CVD) among US adults age 35-94 (1-4). The structure and transitions in the CVD  
39 Policy Model are shown in Appendix Figure 1. The population included in this analysis reflects  
40 the cohort of US adults age 40-84 years in 2015, with demographics defined using the US  
41 census (5, 6). The baseline cohort was followed by the model in one-year cycles, beginning in  
42 2015 and ending when cohort members either die or reach the age of 94 years (whichever  
43 comes first).



**Appendix Figure 1. Schematic of the Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model.** The structure and transitions in the CVD Policy Model are shown here. The model has been extensively validated across national and clinical-trial data.

Abbreviations: CHD, coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; MI, myocardial infarction.

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45 Persons without a prior diagnosis of CVD (defined as angina, myocardial infarction, cardiac  
46 arrest, or stroke, shown in the green box in Appendix Figure 1) experience an annual rate of  
47 incident coronary heart disease, stroke, or non-CVD death based on their underlying risk factor  
48 profile (age, sex, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol,  
49 systolic blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, smoking, and body mass index) and statin use. In  
50 the first 30 days after an acute CVD event (the “bridge” state, shown in orange in Appendix  
51 Figure 1), patients face the increased short-term costs and QALY penalties associated with the  
52 acute event, as well as an increased probability of mortality. Patients who survive 30 days after  
53 the incident CVD event enter one of the chronic CVD states as defined by the initial event  
54 (shown in blue in Appendix Figure 1), where they can then experience recurrent events with  
55 transition probabilities defined by age, sex, prior CVD history, and smoking status. At all stages  
56 in the model, patients can experience death from cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular  
57 causes. The model tracks major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE), survival (life-years),  
58 quality-adjusted survival (quality-adjusted life years or QALYs), and costs (including  
59 intervention costs, outpatient and inpatient cardiovascular costs, and costs related to non-  
60 cardiovascular care). This analysis takes a health system perspective over a lifetime analytic  
61 horizon. Future costs and QALYs are discounted at 3% a year.

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## Input Parameters and Model Calibration

A summary of key input parameters used in this study is shown in Table 1 in the manuscript, with more detailed inputs described in Appendix Table 1 and full citations in the Reference section at the end of this Supplement (7-21).

**Appendix Table 1.** Input Parameters for Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model Simulations

Input Parameter	Base case values	Range for Monte Carlo simulations	Distribution	Source*
<b>Intervention effect sizes</b>				
Ezetimibe <sup>†</sup> (% reduction in LDL-C)	23.6	21.7 – 25.6	Beta	13,17
PCSK9i (relative rate of coronary events) <sup>†</sup>				
Year 1	0.80	0.68 - 0.94	Log-normal	19
Year 2+	0.65	0.55 - 0.77	Log-normal	19
PCSK9i (relative rate of stroke events) <sup>‡</sup>				
Year 1	0.83	0.63 - 1.08	Log-normal	19
Year 2+	0.76	0.60 - 0.97	Log-normal	19
<b>Effect of 1 mmol/L reduction in LDL-C</b>				
Incidence of coronary heart disease	0.76	0.73 – 0.79	Log-normal	9
Incidence of stroke	0.85	0.80 – 0.89	Log-normal	9
<b>Costs, 2017 US\$</b>				
<i>Annual drug costs</i>				
Ezetimibe	1,440.84	7,20.42-2,881.68	Log-normal	20
PCSK9 inhibitor	9,162.00	4,581.00-19,324.00	Log-normal	20
<i>Costs of coronary heart disease</i>				
Acute fatal MI hospitalization	55,172	45,977 – 66,206	Log-normal	7, 8
Acute non-fatal MI hospitalization	39,929	33,274 – 47,915	Log-normal	7, 8
Acute non-fatal MI and CABG	102,065	85,054 – 122,477	Log-normal	7, 8
Acute MI post-hospitalization (year 1)	12,708	10,590 – 15,250	Log-normal	7, 8
Coronary heart disease costs, subsequent years	2,596	2,163 – 3,115	Log-normal	7,21
<i>Costs of heart failure</i>				
Heart failure hospitalization	20,097	16,748 – 24,116	Log-normal	7, 8
<i>Costs of stroke care</i>				
Hospitalized fatal stroke	27,500	22,916 – 33,000	Log-normal	7, 8
Hospitalized non-fatal stroke	20,324	16,936 – 24,388	Log-normal	7, 8

Post-stroke cost, months 2-11	35,753	29,795 – 42,904	Log-normal	7, 8
Post-stroke cost, subsequent years	5,464	4,554 – 6,557	Log-normal	7,21
<b>Quality-of-Life</b>				
<b><i>Quality-of-life for chronic conditions</i></b>				
No history of cardiovascular disease	1.0000	-	-	Assumed
History of angina	0.9000	0.8667-0.9393	$\beta$	14-16
History of revascularization for angina <sup>§</sup>	0.9864	0.9819-0.9917	$\beta$	10, 14-16
History of MI	0.9648	0.9505-0.9758	$\beta$	14-16
History of stroke	0.8835	0.8414-0.9108	$\beta$	14-16
History of MI and stroke	0.8524	0.7997-0.8888	$\beta$	14-16
<b><i>Quality-of-life deductions for acute events (days)</i></b>				
Angina	0.40	11.1-24.36	$\beta$	14-16
Revascularization <sup>  </sup>	5.11	2.56-7.67	$\beta$	10
Acute MI	2.89	1.86-4.09	$\beta$	14-16
Acute MI and revascularization <sup>¶</sup>	8.00	4.42-11.76	$\beta$	Estimated
Acute stroke	4.13	3.07-5.62	$\beta$	14-16
Injection site adverse reactions	0.11	0.00-0.73	$\beta$	11,12

CABG = coronary artery bypass grafting; FOURIER = Further Cardiovascular Outcomes Research with PCSK9 Inhibition in Subjects with Elevated Risk ; LDL-C = low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; MI = myocardial infarction; PCSK9i = proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitors.

<sup>†</sup> Effect of Ezetimibe in addition to ongoing statin therapy, with percent reduction in LDL assumed to be the same each year of the simulation.

<sup>‡</sup> The effect of PCSK9i was modeled by calibrating the rate ratio for coronary and stroke events based on outcome analysis of the FOURIER trial (6). We used different risk ratios for the first and subsequent years based on increasing effectiveness of PCSK9i seen in FOURIER. The model assumes a constant risk reduction in MI and stroke beyond year 1, equal to the risk reduction observed in year 2 of the FOURIER trial.

<sup>§</sup> Estimated by linear interpolation between the quality of life with angina and perfect health.

<sup>||</sup> Weighted average of disutility related with percutaneous and surgical revascularization.

<sup>¶</sup> Acute disutility for MI and revascularization is the sum of disutilities associated with an MI and a revascularization procedure.

69

## 70 Transition Probabilities

71 The present version of the CVD Policy Model includes data from prior versions as well as many  
 72 updates and upgrades (1-4). The 2010 U.S. Census provided the baseline population (5) and  
 73 number of 35 year-olds projected to enter the model population from 2010-2060 (5, 22).

74

75 Prevalence and joint distributions of cardiovascular risk factors in the US population were  
76 estimated from pooled, survey design-weighted U.S. National Health and Nutrition  
77 Examination Survey (NHANES), 2007-12 (23). Annual transition rates between risk factor levels  
78 were calculated to preserve age-range trends. Statin use among US adults was estimated from  
79 contemporary survey data (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey [NHANES], 2005-  
80 2012) (23). Statin use in the model was stratified by age, sex, and history of cardiovascular  
81 disease. Further, the model incorporated the bivariate distribution of LDL-C and statin-use  
82 estimated directly from the NHANES 2005-12 series. Model input parameters regarding statin  
83 by age and sex among patients with atherosclerotic CVD are shown in Appendix Table 2.

84  
85 The incidence of coronary heart disease and stroke were based on Cox proportional hazards  
86 analysis of the Framingham Heart Study (24) and the Framingham Offspring Study (25) cohorts  
87 from 1988-2007, with further adjustment for risk factor differences between the Framingham  
88 cohorts and NHANES. Incident coronary heart disease events were allocated to three groups:  
89 angina pectoris, hospitalized myocardial infarction, or cardiac arrest. Risk function betas were  
90 estimated separately for the risk of incident coronary heart disease, incident strokes, and non-  
91 CVD deaths, using examinations 1-8 of the Framingham Offspring cohort and accounting for  
92 competing risk across the three outcomes (25). The Framingham coefficients have been found  
93 to be useful for predicting CVD risk relationships across many populations (26-29). Risk factors  
94 were assumed to affect the incidence of myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, and angina in  
95 proportion to the overall incidence of coronary heart disease, except among tobacco smokers  
96 who were assumed to have a higher relative risk for infarction and arrest ((30); personal  
97 communication, Sean Coady, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, February, 2006) and a  
98 proportionately lower coefficient for angina. Environmental tobacco exposure was assumed to

99 carry a relative risk of 1.26 for myocardial infarction and cardiac arrest compared with non-  
100 exposed non-smokers (31) but not to influence angina.

101

102



**Appendix Table 2. Bivariate distribution of statin use and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level among individuals with a history of coronary heart disease or stroke in the CVD Policy Model, estimated from NHANES 2005-2012.\***

		Men		Women	
		On Statin	Not on Statin	On Statin	Not on Statin
<b>Age 35-44</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1159	0.0738	0.0000	0.0295
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.1112	0.0708	0.1680	0.3318
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.2723	0.3560	0.0488	0.4219
<b>Age 45-54</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1581	0.0629	0.0252	0.0216
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.1963	0.1604	0.2351	0.1881
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.1473	0.2750	0.1121	0.4179
<b>Age 55-64</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1999	0.0045	0.0366	0.0073
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.3063	0.0861	0.3413	0.0664
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.1662	0.2370	0.2757	0.2727
<b>Age 65-74</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1652	0.0440	0.2307	0.0641
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.3042	0.0612	0.2404	0.0493
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.2610	0.1644	0.1282	0.2873
<b>Age 75-84</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1915	0.0273	0.1672	0.0050
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.4020	0.1301	0.1790	0.0798
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.0943	0.1548	0.1958	0.3732
<b>Age 84-95</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1915	0.0273	0.1672	0.0050
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.4020	0.1301	0.1790	0.0798
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.0943	0.1548	0.1958	0.3732
<b>Incoming, Age 35</b>	LDL-C <70 mg/dL	0.1019	0.0649	0.0000	0.1259
	LDL-C 70-100 mg/dL	0.0978	0.0622	0.1224	0.3434
	LDL-C >100 mg/dL	0.2394	0.4338	0.0356	0.3727

CVD = cardiovascular disease; LDL-C = low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; NHANES = National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

\* To convert LDL-C levels from mg/dL to SI units, multiply by 0.02586

106

107 The number of patients with hospitalized myocardial infarctions was obtained from discharges  
108 coded as ICD-9 code 410 in the 2010 National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) (32) adjusted  
109 for likely miscoding (33), and excluding patients who were discharged alive after two days or  
110 fewer without a percutaneous coronary intervention, and transfer patients (Appendix Table 3).  
111 Case-fatality rates and rates of myocardial infarction in age/sex subgroups were estimated  
112 from national data (34) with subpopulation (e.g. prior MI vs not) relative rates derived from  
113 complementary sources (35-37). Patients with pre-hospital arrest deaths were estimated from  
114 the U.S. Vital Statistics (34), and patients with out-of-hospital cardiac arrests surviving to  
115 hospital discharge were estimated from national data (34). Survival after a coronary heart  
116 disease event was estimated using California data on the ratio of in-hospital survival to 30 day  
117 survival (21) and data from Medicare and Seattle, Washington (38, 39). Rates of coronary  
118 revascularizations were estimated from the National Hospital Discharge Survey (34), with  
119 mortality estimated from aggregated historical data.

120

121 Deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke in 2010 were extracted from U.S. Vital  
122 Statistics (34). Deaths were categorized according to the International Classification of  
123 Diseases (ICD) 10 codes (40): I20-I25 and two-thirds of I49, I50, and I51 were used to estimate  
124 coronary heart disease deaths (41), I60-I69 were used to estimate stroke deaths, and all other  
125 deaths were considered non-CVD deaths.

126

127 Although heart failure is not a distinct health state in the current version of the CVD Policy  
128 Model, the costs and quality of life penalties due to ischemic and non-ischemic heart failure are  
129 incorporated into chronic coronary heart disease states and non-CVD costs. For instance,  
130 approximately a quarter of patients who have an AMI develop heart failure after the initial

131 hospitalization. The CVD Policy Model currently assumes a rate of heart failure hospitalizations  
132 proportional to coronary heart disease mortality, so when an intervention such as PCSK9  
133 inhibitor therapy reduces coronary heart disease events, cost related to subsequent  
134 complications such as heart failure is also reduced.

135

**Appendix Table 3. 2010 Rates of Myocardial Infarction in the CVD Policy Model, Conditional on Age, Sex, and Health State.**

	Health State				
	History of Angina	History of MI	History of Stroke	MI in current year	Stroke in current year
<b>Men age 35-44</b>	0.0014	0.0091	0.0014	0.0307	0.0030
<b>Men age 45-54</b>	0.0049	0.0143	0.0049	0.0485	0.0104
<b>Men age 55-64</b>	0.0059	0.0127	0.0059	0.0430	0.0125
<b>Men age 65-74</b>	0.0079	0.0152	0.0079	0.0516	0.0167
<b>Men age 75-84</b>	0.0098	0.0187	0.0098	0.0635	0.0206
<b>Men age 85-94</b>	0.0193	0.0364	0.0193	0.1234	0.0406
<b>Women age 35-44</b>	0.0008	0.0058	0.0008	0.0196	0.0017
<b>Women age 45-54</b>	0.0019	0.0078	0.0019	0.0265	0.0040
<b>Women age 55-64</b>	0.0046	0.0122	0.0046	0.0413	0.0098
<b>Women age 65-74</b>	0.0066	0.0138	0.0066	0.0469	0.0139
<b>Women age 75-84</b>	0.0115	0.0198	0.0115	0.0673	0.0242
<b>Women age 85-94</b>	0.0234	0.0322	0.0234	0.1093	0.0494

CVD = cardiovascular disease; MI = myocardial infarction.

137

138 Stroke incidence was assumed to be independent of the risk of new onset coronary heart  
139 disease in the same year. The number of hospitalized strokes was also obtained from the 2010  
140 NHDS (32). We applied positive predictive values of specific ICD-9 stroke hospital diagnosis  
141 codes (inclusive of ICD 9 codes 430-438) according to methods described in Williams et al  
142 (1999) (42), which involved pooling published data from four cohort studies of stroke incidence  
143 that compared hospital diagnoses with a gold standard (43-46). The positive predictive values  
144 were applied to age- and sex-specific NHDS cases in order to estimate total stroke event rates  
145 (inclusive of first-ever and recurrent stroke events). Applying 30-day case fatality rates based  
146 on the Atherosclerosis in Communities Study (46, 47) yielded annual mortality rate estimates  
147 within the range of stroke rates reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC  
148 Wonder) for 2010 (48). Incidence calibration assumed that 77% of all strokes are incident (first  
149 ever) (49), but it was assumed that the proportion first ever/total diminished with age (i.e.,

150 >90% of all strokes are first strokes in 35-44 year olds and 50% are first strokes in 85-94 year  
151 olds). The resulting incidence of hospitalized stroke approximated age- and sex- specific  
152 stroke incidence rates observed in U.S. stroke cohort and surveillance studies. The annual  
153 probabilities of stroke after myocardial infarction (50) and the probability of coronary heart  
154 disease in stroke patients was based on natural history studies (51-56).

155

156 The background prevalence of CVD by age, sex, and CVD disease state (stroke, coronary heart  
157 disease, or both stroke and coronary heart disease) in 2010 was estimated from the National  
158 Health Interview Survey data from 2009-2011 (57), assuming that the imperfect positive  
159 predictive value of survey data is offset by its imperfect sensitivity (58-60), Age-specific  
160 prevalence for individual CVD disease states were fitted with polynomial or spline functions of  
161 age to obtain smooth, monotonically increasing prevalence. The background prevalence of  
162 prior coronary revascularization was estimated from revascularizations before 2010 and  
163 estimated survival after revascularization, while model projections were used to infer the  
164 distribution of revascularization by CVD state.

165

### 166 Costs

167 Costs related to hospitalizations for coronary heart disease and stroke and rehabilitation cost  
168 after an acute stroke were estimated using California hospital data (8, 18), deflated using cost-  
169 to-charge ratios (8), and the ratio of the U.S. national average costs to the California average  
170 (61). Chronic outpatient CVD costs and annual non-cardiovascular (background) costs were  
171 estimated for patients with a stroke or coronary heart disease diagnosis surveyed in the U.S.  
172 Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys pooled from 1998-2008 (21). All costs were indexed to the  
173 year 2017 using the medical component of the U.S. Consumer Price Index (7).

174

175 Quality-of-Life Preference Weights

176 The Global Burden of Disease 2010 study was used for health-related quality-of-life weights  
177 and severity distributions for cardiovascular disease states (Table 1 in the manuscript) (14-16).

178

179

180

181 **Model Validation**

182 The model has been extensively validated across national and clinical-trial data. (1-4, 62) CVD

183 Policy Model estimates for the year 2010 were within 1% of estimates from the national vital

184 statistics (stroke deaths, CHD deaths, and deaths from all causes) and the US National

185 Hospital Discharge Survey (total MIs and strokes, Appendix Table 4).

**Appendix Table 4. Model Validation.** Comparisons of selected Cardiovascular Disease Policy Model simulation outputs for 2010 (model base year) with national targets for 2010.

Age and sex category	Total myocardial infarctions		Total strokes		CHD deaths		Stroke deaths		All-cause deaths	
	Target source: NHDS		Target source: NHDS		Target source: national vital statistics		Target source: national vital statistics		Target source: national vital statistics	
	Target	Model	Target	Model	Target	Model	Target	Model	Target	Model
<b>Males</b>										
35-44	13,979	13,839	16,535	16,553	4,783	4,862	1,027	1,031	43,345	43,335
45-54	56,129	55,811	43,493	43,710	19,489	19,594	3,298	3,301	111,981	111,933
55-64	77,992	77,395	67,863	68,497	38,032	38,065	6,159	6,133	190,845	190,629
65-74	75,804	75,689	79,450	79,239	45,700	46,096	9,350	9,265	231,327	231,231
75-84	62,982	63,063	76,205	76,436	64,610	65,097	16,215	16,240	312,778	312,873
85-94	37,568	37,483	38,943	39,247	64,071	63,958	15,318	14,742	264,705	263,235
<b>Females</b>										
35-44	6,259	6,144	6,390	6,387	1,710	1,822	873	875	26,538	26,619
45-54	17,071	17,035	36,952	37,083	6,858	6,969	2,609	2,764	71,145	71,352
55-64	40,246	40,403	42,966	43,222	15,122	15,265	4,622	4,605	122,502	122,546
65-74	43,843	43,898	69,473	69,659	24,964	25,137	8,504	8,308	178,530	178,342
75-84	60,097	60,043	93,040	93,434	53,247	53,600	21,492	21,541	313,803	313,894
85-94	57,661	57,403	77,481	77,883	99,680	98,988	35,416	36,233	448,864	447,244
<b>Deviation from target</b>	-0.26%		0.39%		0.27%		0.12%		-0.14%	

CHD = coronary heart disease; NHDS = National Hospital Discharge Survey.

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## 189 **Specific Model Adaptations for the Present Analysis**

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### 191 Summary of the FOURIER Trial

192 This study simulated effectiveness of PCSK9 inhibitors based on outcome data from the  
193 Further Cardiovascular Outcomes Research with PCSK9 Inhibition in Subjects with Elevated  
194 Risk (FOURIER) trial (19). The FOURIER trial enrolled 27,564 patients with ASCVD and LDL-C  
195 levels of  $\geq 1.81$  mmol/L (70 mg/dL) on statin therapy. Patients were randomly assigned to  
196 receive subcutaneous injections of evolocumab (either 140 mg every 2 weeks or 420 mg  
197 monthly) or matching placebo. The primary efficacy end point was the composite of  
198 cardiovascular death, myocardial infarction, stroke, hospitalization for unstable angina, or  
199 coronary revascularization. Over a median follow-up of 2.2 years, evolocumab reduced LDL-C  
200 levels by 59%, from a median baseline value of 2.38 mmol/L (92 mg/dL) to 0.78 mmol/L (30  
201 mg/dL,  $p < 0.001$ ). Treatment with evolocumab relative to placebo significantly reduced the risk  
202 of the primary end point (9.8% vs. 11.3%; hazard ratio, 0.85; 95% confidence interval, 0.79 to  
203 0.92;  $p < 0.001$ ). The results were consistent across subgroups, and, in landmark analyses,  
204 there appeared to be a greater effect in year 2 compared with year 1. There was no significant  
205 increase in adverse events with the exception of injection-site reactions, which were more  
206 common with evolocumab (2.1% vs. 1.6%).

207

### 208 Model Adaptations

209 For this analysis, we adapted the CVD Policy Model to simulate the experience with  
210 evolocumab observed in the FOURIER trial, following from prior work (63, 64). We modeled a  
211 cohort of US adults that would have qualified for the FOURIER trial (adults 40-80 years old who  
212 have a prior history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, are on statin therapy, and have



213 LDL-C levels  $\geq 1.81$  mmol/L [70 mg/dL] (63, 64). The starting cohort was defined using  
 214 NHANES surveys from 2005-2012 (23) and estimated to include 8.8 million adults. Among  
 215 patients receiving PCSK9i therapy in addition to maximally tolerated statin therapy, we  
 216 modeled separate risk ratios for year 1 and years 2 and beyond to reflect improved outcomes  
 217 seen over time in FOURIER trial results.

218

219 Model Calibration

220 We confirmed that event rates projected by the CVD Policy Model closely approximated those  
 221 observed at years 1 and 2 in the FOURIER trial (Appendix Table 5).

222

**Appendix Table 5. FOURIER Model Validation.** Rates of major adverse cardiovascular events (per 100 patient years) observed in the FOURIER trial and projected using the CVD Policy Model at the end of year 1 and year 2.

Trial Arm	Year 1		Year 2	
	FOURIER Trial	CVD Policy Model	FOURIER Trial	CVD Policy Model
<b>Statin only</b>	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8
<b>Statin + PCSK9 inhibitor</b>	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.7

CVD = cardiovascular disease; FOURIER = Further Cardiovascular Outcomes Research with PCSK9 Inhibition in Subjects with Elevated Risk ; PCSK9i = proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitors.

223

224 Input Parameters: Costs

225 Base-case drug costs were assumed to be the U.S. average net costs (i.e., costs net of  
 226 rebates and discounts, to approximate costs actually paid). As seen in Appendix Table 6, the  
 227 average net costs represent substantial discounts over the wholesale acquisition costs. We  
 228 obtained net pricing estimates from SSR Health, LLC, which combine data on unit sales with  
 229 publicly-disclosed US sales figures that are net of discounts, rebates, concessions to  
 230 wholesalers and distributors, and patient assistance programs, to derive a net price (20). We

231 estimated net prices by comparing rolling averages of both net prices and wholesale  
 232 acquisition cost per unit for the most recent four quarters of available data to arrive at a mean  
 233 discount from wholesale acquisition cost for the drug. Finally, we applied this average discount  
 234 to the most recent wholesale acquisition cost (Truven Health Analytics, 2017. Redbook Online.  
 235 November 2017) (65) to arrive at an estimated net price per unit. In a sensitivity analysis, we  
 236 assumed the drug costs to be equal to those in the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS, version  
 237 January 1, 2018) (66). The FSS Service awards multi-year, multiple award federal contracts that  
 238 are available for use by eligible government agencies. Pricing is negotiated based on how  
 239 vendors do business with their commercial customers and is made publicly available twice a  
 240 month by the Office of Acquisition and Logistics in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (66).  
 241

**Appendix Table 6. Drug Costs.**

Drug	Wholesale Acquisition Cost, per year, \$	Average Net Cost, per year,* \$	Effective Discount (%)	Federal Supply Schedule, \$	Comments
Evolocumab	\$14,523.08	\$9,259.88	36	13809.84	Base-case annual cost of PCSK9i therapy = mean of net average cost of evolocumab and alirocumab = \$9162.00 per year.
Alirocumab	\$14,560.00	\$9,064.12	38	8810.09	
Brandname ezetimibe (Zetia™)	\$3,820.52	\$1,440.84	62	2967.46	The marked discount on brandname ezetimibe is due to price competition from generic formulations approved since 2016. In a sensitivity analysis, the annual cost of ezetimibe was assumed to be equal to the median price of all available generic formulations (\$307.28).

PCSK9i = proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitors.

\* Average price paid for the drug net of discounts and rebates. See text for methodological details.

242

243 ***Input Parameters: Utilities***

244 In addition to quality-of-life penalties associated with acute CVD events, the model  
 245 incorporated a small disutility for injection-site reactions (which affect 5% of patients in clinical

246 trials, are generally minor, and do not require discontinuation of the drug).

247

248 Sensitivity Analyses

249 Since US net average costs are not publicly available, we performed a sensitivity analysis that  
250 incorporated the cost of PCSK9i and brand-name ezetimibe from the Federal Supply Schedule  
251 (66) (Appendix Table 7).

252

253 Given the increasing uptake of generic ezetimibe over the past year, we performed a  
254 deterministic sensitivity analysis in which we assumed the cost of ezetimibe to be the median  
255 cost of generic formulations of ezetimibe as of November 2017 (Appendix Table 8).

256

257 We also conducted probabilistic sensitivity analyses in order to construct uncertainty intervals  
258 around point estimates from model output. We conducted 1000 Monte Carlo iterations, each  
259 taking random draws from pre-specified distributions of the varied parameters (Appendix Table  
260 1). Model output from each simulation was stored and the 1000 results were used to construct  
261 95% Uncertainty Intervals (95% UIs).

**Appendix Table 7.** Clinical and Economic Outcomes of PCSK9 Inhibitor Therapy in Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease over the Lifetime Analytic Horizon\* using drug prices listed in the Federal Supply Schedule.\*

Treatment Strategy	Clinical Outcomes		Economic Outcomes			Cost-Effectiveness
	Total MACE Averted (number) <sup>†</sup>	QALYs Gained	Incremental Drug Cost <sup>‡</sup> (millions,\$)	Incremental Cost of CV Care <sup>‡</sup> (millions, \$)	Incremental Cost of non-CV Care <sup>‡,§</sup> (millions, \$)	ICER (\$/QALY)
Statin + Ezetimibe <sup>  </sup>	2,164,000 (1,019,500-3,170,800)	4,423,700 (2,113,800-6,391,200)	676,272 (672,644-679,348)	-85,540 (-40,636 to -124,156)	97,002 (46,316-139,799)	155,000 (109,000-321,000)
Statin + PCSK9 Inhibitor <sup>¶</sup>						
Current Payment Method	2,893,500 (1,169,200-4,647,600)	5,558,400 (2,227,000-8,865,600)	1,933,743 (1,917,311-1,948,944)	-109,478 (-44,728 to -175,420)	123,415 (49,138-196,511)	350,000 (220,000-821,000)
Reimbursement of 1-year of drug costs incurred prior to MACE <sup>†</sup>	Same as above	Same as above	1,919,476 (1,901,981-1,935,847)	Same as above	Same as above	348,000 (219,000-814,000)
Reimbursement of all drug costs incurred prior to MACE <sup>†</sup>	Same as above	Same as above	1,896,773 (1,877,183-1,915,126)	Same as above	Same as above	344,000 (216,000-804,000)
Reimbursement of all drug costs incurred prior to MACE and direct inpatient costs resulting from MACE <sup>†</sup>	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	-136,055 (-73,145 to -200,758)	Same as above	339,000 (214,000-791,000)

\* The analysis included 8.9 million US adults age 40-84 years with ASCVD and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level > 1.81 mmol/L (70mg/dL) despite statin therapy. It assumed the health system perspective and a lifetime analytic horizon, and discounted future costs and QALYs at 3% a year. To reflect the precision of the model, person-years of treatment are rounded to the nearest 100,000s; MACE and QALYs are rounded to the 100s; costs are rounded to the millions; and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios to the 1000s. All reported values are point-estimates from the base case and the 95% uncertainty interval. CV denotes cardiovascular, ICER incremental cost-effectiveness ratio, MACE major adverse cardiovascular event (nonfatal MI, non-fatal stroke, and cardiovascular death), PCSK9 proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9, QALY quality-adjusted life year.

<sup>†</sup> MACE was defined as a composite of non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, and death from cardiovascular causes.

<sup>‡</sup> All costs are reported in 2017 U.S. dollars

<sup>§</sup> Non-cardiovascular costs include age-specific background healthcare costs, i.e., health care costs unrelated to management of cardiovascular disease.

<sup>||</sup> The comparator for the statin + ezetimibe arm was *status quo* statin therapy (as observed in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2005-2012).

<sup>¶</sup> The statin + PCSK9 inhibitor arm is compared with the statin + ezetimibe arm (the next best alternative).

**Appendix Table 8. Sensitivity Analysis. Clinical and Economic Outcomes of PCSK9 Inhibitor Therapy in Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease over the Lifetime Analytic Horizon Assuming Complete Market Capture by Generic Ezetimibe.\***

Treatment Strategy	Clinical Outcomes		Economic Outcomes			Cost-Effectiveness
	Total MACE Averted (number) <sup>†</sup>	QALYs Gained	Incremental Drug Cost <sup>‡</sup> (millions,\$)	Incremental Cost of CV Care <sup>‡</sup> (millions, \$)	Incremental Cost of non-CV Care <sup>‡,§</sup> (millions, \$)	ICER (\$/QALY)
Statin + Ezetimibe <sup>  </sup>	2,164,000 (1,019,500-3,170,800)	4,423,700 (2,113,800-6,391,200)	70,028 (69,652-70,346)	-85,540 (-40,636 to -124,156)	97,002 (46,316-139,799)	18,000 (13,000-36,000)
Statin + PCSK9 Inhibitor <sup>¶</sup>						
Current Payment Method	2,893,500 (1,169,200-4,647,600)	5,558,400 (2,227,000-8,865,600)	2,044,297 (2,030,795-2,057,209)	-109,478 (-44,728 to -175,420)	123,415 (49,138-196,511)	370,000 (232,000-870,000)
Reimbursement of 1-year of drug costs incurred prior to MACE <sup>†</sup>	Same as above	Same as above	2,032,740 (2,018,303-2,046,721)	Same as above	Same as above	368,000 (231,000-864,000)
Reimbursement of all drug costs incurred prior to MACE <sup>†</sup>	Same as above	Same as above	2,014,349 (1,998,527-2,029,941)	Same as above	Same as above	365,000 (229,000-856,000)
Reimbursement of all drug costs incurred prior to MACE and direct inpatient costs resulting from MACE <sup>†</sup>	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	-136,055 (-73,145 to -200,758)	Same as above	360,000 (226,000-843,000)

\* The analysis included 8.9 million US adults age 40-84 years with ASCVD and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level > 1.81 mmol/L (70mg/dL) despite statin therapy. It assumed the health system perspective and a lifetime analytic horizon, and discounted future costs and QALYs at 3% a year. To reflect the precision of the model, person-years of treatment are rounded to the nearest 100,000s; MACE and QALYs are rounded to the 100s; costs are rounded to the millions; and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios to the 1000s. All reported values are point-estimates from the base case and the 95% uncertainty interval. CV denotes cardiovascular, ICER incremental cost-effectiveness ratio, MACE major adverse cardiovascular event (nonfatal MI, non-fatal stroke, and cardiovascular death), PCSK9 proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9, QALY quality-adjusted life year.

<sup>†</sup> MACE was defined as a composite of non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, and death from cardiovascular causes.

<sup>‡</sup> All costs are reported in 2017 U.S. dollars

<sup>§</sup> Non-cardiovascular costs include age-specific background healthcare costs, i.e., health care costs unrelated to management of cardiovascular disease.

<sup>||</sup> The comparator for the statin + ezetimibe arm was *status quo* statin therapy (as observed in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2005-2012). This sensitivity analysis assumes the use of generic ezetimibe, costing \$307.28 per year.

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¶ The statin + PCSK9 inhibitor arm is compared with the statin + ezetimibe arm (the next best alternative).

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