New therapies emerging on the cancer landscape, including targeted drugs, immunotherapies, and combinations of drugs, offer patients potential for improved outcomes, but often at a steep cost. There have also been sharp price increases and potential for shortages among drugs that have long been on the market. Clinicians, patients, families, and healthcare systems increasingly must consider the financial risks associated with treatment options in addition to clinical benefits and risks. Solutions that ensure patients’ access to beneficial and affordable therapies require an evaluation of the drug pricing and payment landscape and the associated policies, practices, and market forces that shape strategies. An improved understanding of these processes could enable informed comparisons between treatment options based on efficacy, side effects, quality of life, and cost to patients.

In this third workshop in a series on cancer drug access and value, the President’s Cancer Panel will convene leaders and stakeholders across multiple sectors to identify key actions to support drug pricing and payment strategies that ensure patients’ access to high-value cancer therapies. Questions to be considered include the following:

- How can the value of a cancer therapy be determined?
- What factors affect pricing and payment practices for cancer drugs, and how do payers determine which drugs are covered?
- Are there approaches that could support transparency in cancer drug pricing and payment?
- What are the barriers to developing alternatives ways of pricing and paying for cancer drugs and how can these barriers be overcome?
- How could effective communication between clinicians (defined broadly) and patients be supported regarding treatment efficacy, benefits, harms, and costs?

Presentations and moderated discussions among participants will inform the Panel’s recommendations in a formal report to the President of the United States after the conclusion of series workshops.

For more information, visit PresCancerPanel.cancer.gov or follow the Panel on Twitter at @PresCancerPanel. Join the conversation on Twitter using #CancerRxValue.