

## Health Care Cost Drivers Nationally and in California: What Are They and How Are They Changing?

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### **Presenter Bio**

**Niall Brennan, President and CEO, Health Care Cost Institute**

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Mr. Brennan is the President and CEO of the Health Care Cost Institute. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing HCCL's overall research agenda that seeks to highlight trends in US health care spending and the factors behind those trends. Niall also works to maximize the reach of HCCL's data by licensing directly to leading academic researchers and through HCCL's role as a Medicare certified Qualified Entity. Niall works closely with federal and state policymakers, including the US Congress on key health policy issues. He is a nationally recognized expert in health care policy, the use of health care data to enable and accelerate health system change, and data transparency. He has published widely in leading academic journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine and Health Affairs. Prior to joining HCCL, Mr. Brennan was Chief Data Officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He has also worked at the Brookings Institution, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, the Congressional Budget Office, the Urban Institute, and Price WaterhouseCoopers.

Mr. Brennan received his MPP from Georgetown University and his BA from University College Dublin, Ireland.

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### **Presenter Bio**

**Kristof Stremikis, Director of Market Analysis and Insight,  
California Healthcare Foundation**

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Kristof Stremikis is director of CHCF's Market Analysis and Insight team, which promotes greater transparency and accountability in California's health care system.

He oversees the foundation's work to provide research and analysis to policymakers and other health leaders across the state to give a market-wide view of the complex health care ecosystem and to support informed decisions about California's health care landscape.

Previously, Kristof served as associate director for policy at the Pacific Business Group on Health, where he also oversaw the Purchaser Value Network. Prior to that, he spent six years at the Commonwealth Fund as senior researcher to the president.

Kristof received a bachelor's degrees in economics, political science, and history from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; a master's of public policy from the University of California, Berkeley; and a master's of health policy and management from Columbia University. His work has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Harvard Business Review, and Health Affairs.

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