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## Independent Studies

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Independent studies continually emphasize the point that GPOs are a practical solution to counter the ever mounting cost of health care in America. HSCA will keep this page updated with the latest in third-party studies.

## Independent Studies

***The Impact of Group Purchasing Organizations on Healthcare-Product Supply Chains***  
by Joice Hu, Leroy B. Schwarz, and Nelson A. Uhan  
Krannert School of Management, Purdue University

A 2011 study that utilized game theory to analyze the impact of GPOs on the healthcare supply chain. Findings include: GPOs decrease overall purchasing costs for hospitals and providers, particularly for small providers; if GPOs were removed from the healthcare marketplace, hospitals would pay higher total purchasing costs; GPO contract administrative fees have no effect on the total purchasing costs of any provider, large or small; competition among GPOs in the same market for hospital business likely lowers per-unit prices for hospitals; and many large hospitals are part-owner of their GPO and experience lower per-unit and total purchasing costs as a result.

[Click here to access this study](#)
[Click here to access a summary document and Q&A with Dr. Schwarz](#)
[Click here to listen to a press briefing on the study](#)

***Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs) Work to Maintain Access to Product Supply for America's Health Care Providers***  
Research and compilation of findings by Avalere Health

GPOs play a vital role in assisting hospitals to limit the impact of drug shortages and to ensure the least possible disruption to patient care by prompt and safe migration to alternative products, where possible. This study analyzes the role of GPOs; specifically, GPOs track data on drug shortages to stay abreast of the topic, strategize with their members when there is a potential for drug supply disruption, and communicate with manufacturers and distributors to foresee any problems. Moreover, GPOs help their members lessen the exposure to drug shortages by evaluating manufacturer's reliability when sourcing and awarding contracts and in assisting them to establish best practice purchasing procedures.

[Click here to access this study](#)

***Cost Savings and a Marketplace Analysis of the Health Care Group Purchasing Industry***  
by David Goldenberg and Guy King

A 2009 study of National Health Expenditure Data by Dr. David Goldenberg and Roland King shows that in 2008 GPOs saved the nation up to \$64 billion; Medicare & Medicaid saved up to \$30 billion.

[Click here to access this study](#)

***The Value of Group Purchasing: Meeting the Needs for Strategic Savings***  
by Eugene Schneller

An April 2009 study of over 420 hospitals by Dr. Eugene S. Schneller, professor, Arizona State University and principal, Health Care Sector Advances, Inc. finds that GPOs save the U.S. health care industry \$36 billion dollars annually. Click here to listen to an audio clip of the complete launch event.

[Click here to access this study](#)

***Hospital purchasing alliances: Utilization, services, and performance***  
by Lawton R. Burns and J. Andrew Lee

This study represents the first national survey of hospital purchasing alliances. The survey analyzes

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alliance utilization, services, and performance from the perspective of the hospital executive in charge of materials management. This study extends research on pooling alliances, develops national benchmark statistics, and answers important issues raised recently about pooling alliances.

[Click here to access this study.](#)

***Group Purchasing Organization: Contracting Practices and Antitrust Law***  
by William Kolasky

This paper is a response to the testimony of David Balto entitled The Effects of Regulatory Neglect on Health Care Consumers in the Competition in the Healthcare Marketplace hearing before the Consumer Protection, Product Safety and Insurance Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation that took place July 16, 2009.

[Click here to access this paper.](#)

***Group Purchasing Organizations: Services Provided to Customers and Initiatives Regarding Their Business Practices***

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO)  
Report to the Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate

In 2010, the GAO was asked to describe GPO services and funding, as well as the impact of GPOs' codes of conduct and other initiatives regarding their business practices. In this report the GAO describes (1) the types of services that GPOs provide and how the GPOs fund these services, (2) initiatives that GPOs have implemented since 2002 to address the questions that had been raised about their business practices, and (3) the reported impact of the GPOs' codes of conduct and other initiatives.

[Click here to access this report.](#)

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