

# Cystic Fibrosis Research News

## **Citation:**

Li SS, Hayes D Jr, Tobias JD, Morgan WJ, Tumin D. Health insurance and use of recommended routine care in adults with cystic fibrosis. Clin Respir J 2018;12(5):1981-1988.

## **What was your research question? (50 words maximum)**

We examined patient registry data to determine the effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the care of patients with CF.

## **Why is this important? (100 words maximum)**

Health insurance coverage is a relevant issue, especially in patients with chronic diseases such as CF. It is important to know how public insurance policies influence the delivery of healthcare for patients with chronic disease seeking medical care.

## **What did you do? (100 words maximum)**

We grouped CF patients 18 years or older in the CFFPR from 2005-2013 based on reported annual insurance as private, public (Medicaid, Medicare or state medical assistance program), other, or no insurance. We used statistical modelling to evaluate associations between change in insurance status and annual use of recommended routine care.

## **What did you find? (100 words maximum)**

For adults with CF in the United States, public insurance was associated with greater use of routine care than private coverage. Being uninsured was strongly associated with not using routine care. Further efforts to improve access to CF care should address the feasibility of universal and continuous insurance coverage in the CF population.

## **What does this mean and reasons for caution? (100 words maximum)**

Understanding of insurance-related obstacles for CF patients seeking medical care is needed. This type of work addresses limitations in care from an insurance perspective that the CF population is facing as they seek out care.

## **What's next? (50 words maximum)**

We would like to look at the CFFPR to evaluate the impact of insurance discontinuity on the progression of lung disease in patients with CF.