Response to “Hypertension and Its Effects on the Economy of the Health System, for Patients and Society: Suggestions for Developing Countries”

Peter S. Arno1,2 and Deborah Viola3

To the Editor: Arredondo and Aviles offer some excellent suggestions to address the economic burden hypertension presents to the Mexican people.1 We would only add that, as in the United States, additional emphasis must be placed on changing physician practice patterns. In the study they cite, cost differences in Mexico also result from “differences in quality of care standards and input mix.”2 As we argued, implementing evidence-based recommendations in the community happens slowly and incompletely and is often unduly influenced by the pharmaceutical industry.3 Physicians have a key role to play, but policymakers, with the assistance of economists, must help ensure that it is based on the latest cost-effective, scientific data available.

DISCLOSURE

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

