The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has two major pieces: an expansion of insurance coverage to roughly 30 million uninsured, and a permanent reduction in the rate of growth in the prices that Medicare pays medical providers. Those two pieces tend to push health care utilization and spending in different directions, and we do not currently have an adequate economic model to predict how the resulting pressure will be resolved. In this seminar, Dr. White will: 1) describe how the federal government used a demand-driven model to project the effects of health reform on total health care utilization and spending, 2) lay out the shortcomings of the demand-driven model, 3) propose a new model of total health spending that reconciles supply- and demand-side pressures, 4) show how the predictions of the new model differ from the official projections, and 5) lay out a research agenda that would refine the parameters in the new model.

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