Controlling Health Care Spending:
The Imperative to Act and Diverse Views of the Road Forward

February 2, 2012
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (EST)
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (CST)
11:00 am – 12:30 pm (MST)
10:00 am – 11:30 am (PST)

1:00 – 1:05  Welcome
Nancy Chockley, MBA
President and CEO, NIHCM Foundation

1:05 – 1:25  Setting the Stage: The Latest Numbers Related to U.S. Health Care Spending
Julie A. Schoenman, Ph.D.
Director of Research and Quality, NIHCM Foundation

Dr. Schoenman will provide a comprehensive overview of our national health spending and the implications of spending growth for government budgets, employers and individuals.

1:25 – 1:45  Guns vs. Butter? The Long-Term Sustainability of Continued Growth in Health Care Spending
Michael E. Chernew, Ph.D.
Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Chernew will present his work investigating how quickly health care spending can continue to grow before it starts to choke off our non-health spending, discuss the societal trade-offs we will face as health spending grows and put forth some considerations for how we may want to think about these trade-offs.

1:45 – 2:15  Point – Counterpoint: The Outlook and Options for Controlling Health Spending
James C. Capretta, MA
Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center

Jonathan Gruber, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mr. Capretta and Dr. Gruber will bring their viewpoints to a discussion of the viability of cost control approaches now being tried and the options for the future that they believe hold the most promise.

2:15 – 2:30  Question & Answer Period