BEA’s Programs for R&D Investment and Health Statistics

Dennis Fixler
APDU Annual Conference
24-25 September 2009
R&D Investment

- Treating expenditures on R&D as investment rather than current expenditure

- Effort cuts across all BEA programs

- BEA R&D on R&D: Price indexes, Depreciation rates, Rate of Return, Backcasting NSF data to NAICS basis (goal 1998-1959)
R&D Investment

- 2006 and 2007 Satellite Accounts released
  (http://www.bea.gov/national/newinnovation.htm)

- Extension to more industry detail and input-output tables

- R&D is one component of intangible assets that fall under innovation
Supplemental measures for medical care that will include:

- Reconciliation of expenditures with Center for Medicaid and Medicare Statistics (CMS) estimates.
- New measures of spending by disease
  - facilitates assessments of the returns on health expenditures.
- Improved price deflators
  - will better-account for changes in prices vs. real services.
Current efforts: Alternative Price Deflators

- Our research builds on existing academic literature:
  - Purchases of large claims databases
  - Also exploring available survey data (MEPS)
- Collaboration
  - academics (Cutler, Rosen, Chernew)
  - researchers at the BLS (Ralph Bradley)