potential for the Federal Government to pay for such technologies twice-once through support of the R&D process and again as a health insurer. The Federal Government has no mechanism to ensure that the process American pay for drugs and other technologies reflect the public's contribution to their development.

Perhaps the most significant lesson to emerge from the case of alglucerase is that cost considerations cannot be ignored in the development and diffusion of any treatment. Payments for alglucerase, like expenditures for any other treatment ordiagnostic procedure, divert health care resources from other uses. Less expensive treatments, however, are unlikely to attract comparable scrutiny from insurers, and few other treatments will so predictably deplete insurance coverage. The high price of alglucerase threatens to put this promising treatment out of reach of many patients, even those who are well-insured.

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