



**Figure 14.11** Medical and pharmacy costs per patient, per month (all-cause, unadjusted) for patients on an STR compared with patients on a two or more pills per day regimen in the US Medicaid analysis (based on 2010 US dollars). Reproduced with permission from reference 26.

STR would result in a savings of €7 million per year, allowing treatment with STRs for an additional 777 patients without any ART cost increase.<sup>49</sup> In an Italian simulation model, the EFV/FTC/TDF STR was the most cost-effective treatment strategy in terms of direct health cost (including drugs, medical examinations, hospitalizations and laboratory tests) per quality-adjusted life-year gained compared with the other therapeutic regimens recommended by the Italian guidelines for the first-line treatment of patients with HIV. This was largely driven by results of the model demonstrating that patients treated with an STR have a better quality of life with a higher number of quality-adjusted life-years than patients on other regimens combined with the relatively low cost of the STR relative to multiple-pill regimens.<sup>47</sup>

## 14.8 Ongoing Studies

Several studies are ongoing to evaluate further the safety, efficacy and patient-reported outcomes of currently approved STRs compared with other anti-retroviral treatment regimens for HIV. These studies are designed to answer important questions that may have arisen during earlier studies or to evaluate the use of a particular STR in patient populations outside the current approved indication, such as virologically suppressed patients switching from other regimens. The results from these studies will provide additional critical safety and efficacy information on the use of these treatments in various patient groups and help guide practitioners when choosing the appropriate ARV treatment for both treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients.

The STAR study is an ongoing Phase 3b randomized, international, open-label, 96-week trial that will provide the first head-to-head comparison of the