

Overview of PCORI Funding Announcements (PFAs), Priority Topics, and Methodology Standards

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Welcome



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The Model of Comparative Effectiveness Research

- Research that Provides Improved Evidence for Healthcare Decision Makers
- Driven by the Needs of Stakeholders
- Guided by Well Defined Evidence Gaps
- Partnerships among Researchers and Clinical Partners
- Based on Rigorous Scientific Methodology



What is the Starting Point of Comparative Effectiveness?

- Examine the choices people make about the options for managing a disease
- Consider how compelling it is to make a choice among these options
- Consider how the need to compare these options could inform the focus of new research
 - Heterogeneity of the patient population
 - Understanding the important benefits and harms
 - Clarity about gaps in the current evidence base
- Engagement with partners facilitates these steps



PCORI's Research Funding Programs

- Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment Options
- Improving Healthcare Systems
- Addressing Disparities
- Communication and Dissemination Research
- Improving Methodology
- Pragmatic Clinical Studies
- Targeted Research Initiatives



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Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment Options

- Decision Makers: Patients and their Clinicians
- Choices among Clinical Options
- Head to Head Comparisons
- What has been our experience with this program?
 - Wide range of clinical services: medications, surgical procedures, physical interventions, counseling
 - About half the studies are RCTs (total sample size < 500)
 - Valuable insights about outcomes that are important to patients



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Improving Healthcare Systems

- Decision Makers: Healthcare Managers
- Choices among Options for Organizing and Delivering Care
- Often Address the Marginal Value of Additional Services: Intensity of services
- What has been our experience with this program?
 - Wide range of delivery models: outpatient, inpatient, community-based services
 - Complex interventions and cluster designs
 - Evaluations of care transitions



Addressing Disparities

- Decision Makers: Members of Disadvantaged Populations and their Caregivers
- Choices among Options for Eliminating Barriers to High Quality Care
- Often Address Strategies for Improving Access
- What has been our experience with this program?
 - Wide range of patient populations: minorities, low-income, rural
 - Use of community health workers
 - Tools to enhance communication and self-care



Communication and Dissemination Research

- Decision Makers: People who Implement Programs for Improving Quality and Patient Engagement
- Choices among Options for Enhancing the Use of Clinical Evidence
- What has been our experience with this program?
 - Studies of decision aids and shared decision making
 - Strategies to help patients understand uncertainty
 - Uptake by providers and health systems



Improving the Methodology of Comparative Effectiveness Research

- Decision Makers: Researchers who Desire to Use Better Methods
- Choices among Options for Measuring Outcomes and Analyzing Data
- Can Address Techniques for Improving Collaboration among Researchers and Partners
- What has been our experience with this program?
 - Wide range of methodological issues: data sources, analytical methods, informed consent and patient participation
 - Use of existing datasets
 - Collection of qualitative data



Pragmatic Clinical Studies

- Cross-Cutting Program across most of the PCORI Research Areas
- Decision Makers: Everyone Involved with Health Care
- Larger Budgets and Longer Durations
- What has been our experience with this program?
 - Most Projects are Randomized Controlled Trials
 - Large Sample Sizes: Heterogeneity of Treatment Effects
 - Many are large studies of complex interventions



Targeted Funding Initiatives

- Focused Funding Announcements that Respond to Stakeholder Input
- Single Clinical Topics
- One-time Opportunities
- Recent Targeted Announcements
 - Improving use of opioids for chronic pain
 - Treatment options for multiple sclerosis
 - Clinical strategies for chronic low back pain



Questions?

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Thank You!

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