The Use of Value of Information Analysis for Research Prioritization

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RFI # PCO-VOI2014

July 23, 2014

KEY DATES	
RFI Release	July 23, 2014
Webinar to Solicit Information	August 27, 2014
Information Due	September 5, 2014

About PCORI

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) was authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 as a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization charged with helping patients, clinicians, purchasers, and policy makers make better informed decisions by "advancing the quality and relevance of evidence about how to prevent, diagnose, treat, monitor, and manage diseases, disorders, and other health conditions." It does this by producing and promoting high-integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers, and the broader healthcare community.

PCORI's strong patient-centered orientation directs attention to individual and system differences that may influence research strategies and outcomes. PCORI is charged with producing useful, relevant clinical evidence through the support of new research and the analysis and synthesis of existing research.

PCORI is committed to transparency and a rigorous stakeholder-driven process that emphasizes patient engagement. PCORI uses a variety of forums and public comment periods to obtain public input to enhance its work.

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I.   Overview

This is a request for information (RFI) only from stakeholders who have an interest in or past experience with Value of Information (VOI) analysis and research prioritization.

PCORI is interested in gathering input from stakeholders about opportunities for future research related to VOI analysis, with an emphasis on research that can support PCORI-related activities. The information collected as a result of this RFI will assist PCORI as it plans for a potential future funding announcement to advance the use of VOI analysis to inform research prioritization and other funding decisions. The information provided in this RFI is subject to change and is not binding on PCORI. PCORI has not made a commitment to procure any of the services discussed, and release of this RFI should not be construed as such a commitment, or as authorization to incur costs for which reimbursement would be required or sought. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Quote (RFQ), if any is issued. All submissions become PCORI property and will not be returned.

Updates or additional information related to this request and any future RFPs or RFQs related to this request will be posted on Opportunities for Public Input.[1]

Informational Webinar

In relation to this RFI, PCORI will hold a webinar on August 27, 2014, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm (EST). The purpose of this webinar is to spur discussion about the use of VOI analysis for research prioritization and funding decisions by PCORI, to obtain further feedback regarding the relative importance of the research topics suggested in this RFI, and to hear from participants about other important research topics not currently included in this document. During the webinar, PCORI staff will review this RFI and will then solicit feedback on its content from webinar participants. To register for the upcoming webinar, please visit: [http://events.meetingbridge.com/Register/?06123456342].

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[1]http://www.pcori.org/get-involved/opportunities-for-public-input/.

II.   Organizational Eligibility

Any private sector organization, including not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, is eligible to submit a response to this RFI.

The Internal Revenue Service must recognize all U.S. organizations.

III.   Statement of Work

Background

The PCORI Methodology Report defines value of information analysis as "a process, rooted in statistical decision and economic theory that projects the value of the findings of proposed research by estimating the average improvement in outcomes expected by obtaining additional information" and identifies VOI analysis as one of the four key components of research prioritization.[2]

VOI is of relevance to PCORI because it has at least the theoretical potential to reflect many of the criteria for research prioritization by PCORI that are defined in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including (1) that the research will likely affect the health of individuals and populations, (2) that the research is likely to improve health care, (3) that the research addresses current gaps in knowledge, and (4) that PCORI is making efficient use of research resources. Accordingly, VOI may be of use to PCORI in informing research priorities in a transparent and reproducible manner and may be of use to applicants for PCORI awards who wish to argue that the funding of their proposal should be prioritized by PCORI. Additionally, although VOI methods can be highly complex to apply, a suite of approaches to VOI have been developed that allow the practical application of VOI principles to inform research priorities.

PCORI currently uses a form of "conceptual VOI" to inform research prioritization by its Advisory Panels using traditional VOI model parameters as explicit criteria for evaluating the importance of research topics. However, formal statistical VOI analysis is not currently employed within PCORI as a means of evaluating the research portfolio and determining future research priorities. In addition, some of the methods for conducting VOI analysis could benefit from further developmental work as well as from the creation of guidelines that describe standard best practices. PCORI is interested in opportunities to understand suitable and efficient ways of incorporating a more formal VOI analysis in its research prioritization and funding decisions.

PCORI is requesting feedback from stakeholders who have an interest in or past experience with VOI analysis and research prioritization.

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[2] For additional information about VOI analysis and how it may be used to inform research prioritization, please refer to the following resources:

(1) http://www.pcori.org/assets/Value-of-Information-Analysis-for-Patient-Centered-Outcomes-Research-Prioritization2.pdf.

(2) http://www.pcori.org/assets/Value-of-Information-and-Research-Prioritization2.pdf.

Information Requested

PCORI is seeking information and suggestions from stakeholders about opportunities for supporting research that will assist the organization in making decisions about appropriate processes for incorporating VOI analysis in internal evaluation and research prioritization decisions. This could include activities such as:

- Research comparing and examining the appropriateness of parametric, nonparametric, and expedited (for example, minimal modeling) approaches to VOI for informing different types of research funding and prioritization decisions, including sensitivity analyses and their impact on prioritization and funding decisions
  - Types of research prioritization and funding decisions could include investigator-driven modeling to demonstrate the value of a particular project as well as PCORI-driven condition-specific modeling to allow for prioritization before a funding solicitation or prioritization of proposals as part of the merit review process, and PCORI-driven modeling for prioritization across disease areas
- Research examining the time, expertise, and resource requirements of conducting VOI, again comparing parametric, nonparametric, and expedited approaches
- Pilot work that applies VOI analysis to currently funded PCORI projects or to current PCORI funding announcements
- Development of guidelines for reporting modeling assumptions and results to allow easy comparison of the potential value of different areas of research
- Opportunities to develop novel computer programs to overcome the computational challenges in estimating VOI
- Opportunities to develop minimal modeling techniques for chronic health conditions
- Analysis of the experience of other research sponsors with the use of VOI analysis, including organizations such as the National Health, Lung and Blood Institute, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
- Research into mechanisms for improving the patient-centeredness of VOI analysis either by involving patients in the development of VOI models or by expanding or altering model inputs

To obtain stakeholder feedback regarding the relative importance of the research topics suggested in this RFI and to hear from participants about other important research topics not currently mentioned, PCORI will host an information webinar Wednesday, August 27, 2014 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm (EST). To register for the upcoming webinar, please visit:
[http://events.meetingbridge.com/Register/?06123456342].

PCORI is also seeking recommendations by email for research areas to pursue related to these topics, as well as recommendations regarding which topics should be prioritized, and recommendations for other work. Please refer to the **Submission Guidelines**.

IV. Submission Guidelines

Responses prepared in MS Word or PDF format should be submitted to rfp@pcori.org, with reference to RFI #PCO-VOI2014 in the subject line of the email submission, by **September 5, 2014, at 5:00pm (EST)**. There is no maximum page count; however, concise submissions are encouraged. All responses must include the names of the author(s); organization affiliation(s), if any; contact email address(es); and phone number(s). Respondents may also include other relevant information about their affiliation or perspectives. Respondents should indicate if they would prefer not to be acknowledged by name on the PCORI website or in PCORI-sponsored events. Respondents may be contacted for additional information.

Questions about this RFI or the PCORI hosted webinar should be submitted to RFP@pcori.org.

PCORI will acknowledge submissions by author/respondent and will not provide the name of the author/respondent who requested anonymity. Those authors/respondents who consent to acknowledgement will also be recognized at PCORI-sponsored events for the benefit of the PCOR community.

All submissions become PCORI property and will not be returned.