

March 14, 2012

Dr. Eugene Washington, Chairman  
Dr. Joe Selby, Executive Director  
PCORI  
1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 300  
Washington DC, 20006

Dear Drs. Washington and Selby:

On behalf of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health, I want to thank you for the opportunity to offer public comment on the research priorities proposed by Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Our Center members sincerely appreciate the effort that PCORI has invested in inviting public comment on this critically important agenda.

The NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health is a research center based at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing. The Center's mission is to generate, disseminate and translate knowledge related to nursing's influence on transitions in health and health care among the growing population of chronically ill adults in the U.S. and globally. Center members represent multidisciplinary teams of clinical scholars and social scientists who integrate theoretical, methodological and clinical expertise related to critical health transitions. Our research focuses on a range of opportunities to enhance these transitions such as: promoting self-care, increasing alignment of health care systems with patients' and family caregivers' needs through improved transitional care and creating patient-focused decision support tools. A hallmark of the research fostered by the NewCourtland Center is the use of innovative methodologies with a specific emphasis on improving the outcomes for chronically-ill patients and their family caregivers identified as most meaningful.

We believe that the priorities put forth by PCORI are essential to achieve a transformed research orientation that truly prioritizes holistic patient outcomes. We offer three recommendations to accelerate achievement of this goal.

1. Rather than focusing on specific disease conditions, we believe that PCORI-sponsored studies should emphasize research-based solutions designed to address the care needs of people coping with multiple chronic conditions, often complicated by other health and social risks. While the complex care needs of this group of patients are emblematic of the challenges confronting our current and future healthcare system, historically, this group has been excluded from disease-specific randomized control trials.

2. Similarly, reallocation of PCORI's funds is recommended to accelerate knowledge generation and dissemination needed to assure patients have timely access to care that is focused on their needs, preferences and values. Specifically, we recommend that 40% of funds be dedicated to Improving Health Systems. Evidence from this line of inquiry is foundational to advances in Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment Options, Communication and Addressing Disparities.

3. Consistent with PCORI's mission, all research supported by this Institute should accelerate patient-centered outcomes and include novel methodologies. A core criterion for each of the recommended research priorities should emphasize innovative research methods.

Once again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on PCORI's significant research agenda and priorities and for your consideration of the NewCourtland Center's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary D. Naylor".

Mary D. Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Director, NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health  
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing