



Does Research Done Differently Make a Difference?


PCORI Evaluation Activities are guided by several groups representing diverse healthcare stakeholders:



A PCORI committee focuses on each of these goals and the evaluation of our progress toward it:


GOAL  Substantially increase the quantity, quality, and timeliness of useful, trustworthy information available to support health decisions


 *The Science Oversight Committee*


TRACKING PROGRESS  We are examining our portfolio of funded studies and collecting and analyzing data on our processes for developing and managing it.

Currently, we are studying:

- How well applicants understand our Methodology Standards and the adherence of our projects to relevant standards
- Implementation of our topic prioritization and merit review processes and the results they are yielding
- The composition of our funded portfolio and how it compares to the portfolios of other funders
- Whether our projects are proceeding as planned and the effectiveness of our management of them
- Whether our processes, particularly those for determining which studies to fund, are resulting in a portfolio of studies with potential to yield useful information


GOAL  Speed the implementation and use of patient-centered outcomes research evidence


 *The Engagement, Dissemination and Implementation Committee*


TRACKING PROGRESS  When the studies we are funding are complete, we will track the dissemination and uptake of their results and assess changes in health decisions, care, and outcomes.

For all or a subset of all studies, we plan to measure:

- **Dissemination:** whether PCORI-funded study results are reported back to study participants, open access to PCORI funded study reports, presentations to scientific and lay audiences, publication of study findings, and coverage and consumption of study findings
- **Uptake and Use:** adoption of study findings in the study setting; incorporation of findings into systematic reviews, training curricula, practice guidelines, and policy at the institutional, local, state, and national level
- **Impact:** improvement in health decisions or healthcare quality and improved health outcomes in relevant populations

GOAL  Influence clinical and health care research funded by others to be more patient-centered

 *The Research Transformation Committee*

TRACKING PROGRESS  We are examining whether and how researchers and research funders endorse, adopt, and disseminate components of PCORI's approach.

Currently, we are studying:

- Endorsement, Promotion, and Dissemination of PCORI work
- Use of PCORI Methodology Standards for Patient-Centeredness
- Use of PCORI approaches to Topic Generation and Research Prioritization, Merit Review, Engagement, and Communication and Dissemination
- Use of PCORI guidance re: Patient-Centered CER
- Use of PCORI-supported curricula or training
- Collaborations/Co-funding with other funders

The **PCORI Evaluation Framework** lays out the many questions we've identified about how well we do our day-to-day work, whether we are reaching our goals, and if doing research differently makes a difference. This document outlines some of these questions and our initial approach to answering them. The questions are continually evolving (or refined) because even as we begin to answer them, new ones arise, so please stay tuned!

How well are we doing our day-to-day work?	
	We survey our research applicants and awardees, asking such questions as how clear our application process, requirements, and review criteria are, and about how responsive and helpful PCORI is to email or telephone inquiries.
	We continuously monitor and seek to improve all of our operations and the management of our funded portfolio of projects to ensure they are on track to be successfully completed on time.
What is the impact of PCORI's approach to topic capture and research prioritization?	
	We analyze the type and number of topics we receive and the kinds of stakeholders who submit the ideas. We track which topics lead to PCORI funding announcements and result in funded studies.
What is the impact of PCORI's approach to Merit Review?	
	We survey our Merit Reviewers (scientists, patients, and stakeholders) to help us learn about how to improve the process and to get their views on how patients and other stakeholders contribute to the review process.
	We interview groups of our Merit Reviewers to get their views on the review process and the contributions of patients and other stakeholders to the selection of projects for funding.
	We analyze PCORI Merit Review scores to determine the impact of scientific, patient, and stakeholder reviewers on the selection of funded projects. We also analyze how PCORI's unique review criteria, like patient-centeredness and engagement, affect the selection of projects.
What is the impact of PCORI's approach to building a PCOR community?	
	We survey people who participate in PCORI events and activities. This helps us learn what they are doing differently to support or conduct patient-centered outcomes research after attending our events.
	We created a tool to learn about how to develop and grow partnerships from our Pipeline to Proposal Awardees and Engagement Awards. PCORI awardees and their patient and stakeholder partners will complete reports once a year to help us understand the contributions of these projects to expanding the PCOR community.
What is the impact of engagement in research?	
	We created the WE-ENACT (Ways of Engaging - Engagement Activity Tool). PCORI researchers and their patient and stakeholder partners are completing WE-ENACT once a year to help us describe engagement in PCORI research projects and to measure its impact on aspects of research such as study design, the research team, and enrollment in the study.
	We created the Net-ENACT (PCORnet ENGagement Activity Tool). Researchers and people engaged in PCORI networks are completing Net-ENACT once a year to help us describe engagement of patients and other stakeholders in setting up data research networks and to measure its impact on the development and functioning of the networks.
What is the impact of PCORI's approach to communication, dissemination, and implementation of information from funded research?	
	We are developing a variety of activities to follow the dissemination, uptake, use, and impact of information from PCORI funded studies.
What is the overall impact of PCORI and our research portfolio?	
	We study our processes for planning and managing our portfolio and analyze the portfolio itself to determine whether they are leading to information that will be high quality, timely, useful, and trustworthy.
	We survey and interview external stakeholders about their views on PCORI, CER, engagement in research, and PCORI's research portfolio.

As we seek to understand and answer questions about PCORI and our work, our evaluation activities will continue to develop and evolve. Don't see your questions about PCORI or our work reflected above? Please let us know!

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