PCORI Initiatives to Support Stakeholder Decision Making

Patients and those who care for them frequently face a choice between two or more options when making healthcare decisions. Often, there is a lack of evidence about which option would work best for whom given their individual situations and preferences. Sometimes, there is even a lack of clarity about what evidence exists on a certain topic. PCORI's diverse portfolio of research and research-related activities seeks to increase the availability of high-integrity and evidence-based information to inform such challenges faced by patients, clinicians, and other stakeholders.

In response to stakeholders' interest in the range of PCORI's research and research-related activities that can be used in real-word contexts, this document provides a non-exhaustive overview of PCORI's initiatives, focused primarily on:

- Understanding existing evidence
- Comparative effectiveness research (CER) and patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR)
- Supporting PCOR through infrastructure development and stakeholder engagement
- Getting research results into practice

**Understanding Existing Evidence**

PCORI's evidence synthesis activities leverage a wide variety of tools to pull together and analyze existing research to clarify what evidence exists on a certain topic.

Evidence synthesis evaluates all relevant completed studies on a particular clinical question or topic to clarify what is known and what evidence gaps still exist. It builds on previous research, reusing already gathered data to provide results quickly and efficiently. Evidence synthesis can yield useful information within a year or two, instead of the three to five years typically required for a new research study. Examples of the types of evidence synthesis that PCORI produces include:

- **Evidence Maps** inform clinical and research decision making by systematically searching research evidence and displaying the findings in an accessible format. By developing an easily understandable visual representation of available research evidence, evidence maps also highlight and prioritize evidence gaps for future research.

- **Systematic Reviews** synthesize research evidence that addresses focused key questions on well-defined topics to help stakeholders understand whether and how the body of research evidence supports (or does not support) the effectiveness of healthcare interventions. These reports can also identify research gaps for future study.

- **Health Care Horizon Scanning** targets emerging technologies that are expected to be of high impact or disruptive in the field of health care. Since May 2020, PCORI has included a targeted effort within its horizon scanning program to identify, monitor, and report on emerging and available treatments, diagnostics, preventive measures, management strategies, and systems changes with potential for high impact on patient outcomes related to COVID-19.

- **Emerging Technologies and Therapeutics Reports** fulfill a need for timely information on new healthcare technologies, such as drugs or devices, by stakeholders. They provide clarity about available evidence, areas of uncertainty for decision makers, and future research needs. The documents also identify gaps that need to be addressed for the technologies or therapeutics to move forward.

For a full list and more details about each product, see PCORI's website.
Comparative Effectiveness Research and Patient-Centered Outcome Research

PCORI’s largest investments fund comparative effectiveness research (CER), which compares two or more available healthcare options to determine what works best for which patients, under what circumstances. PCORI’s unique approach is focused on patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR), which is CER that focuses not only on traditional clinical outcomes but also on the needs, preferences, and outcomes most important to patients and those who care for them. In most research projects that we fund, researchers partner with patients and other stakeholders from the planning stages through the final dissemination of findings.

Supporting PCOR through Infrastructure Development and Stakeholder Engagement

PCORnet®

PCORnet, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network, was developed to improve the capacity to conduct PCOR faster, more efficiently, and at lower cost than previously possible. Researchers leverage PCORnet to analyze real-world data across many health systems, clinics, and patient groups, and to better understand patterns of healthcare utilization, monitor for safety signals (such as potential adverse events), and surveillance.

Engagement Awards

The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program brings patients, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders into the research process. Organizations can receive funding to build capacity within communities to participate in PCOR, convene stakeholders in support of PCOR, or disseminate PCORI-funded research results.

Learning Packages

PCORI’s Research Fundamentals Learning Package is a self-paced, on-demand training that uses evidence-based approaches and plain language to describe and explain PCOR. It is a free online resource to support stakeholder partners in contributing to research.

Getting Research Results into Practice

PCORI seeks to support the dissemination and implementation (D&I) of patient-centered comparative effectiveness research results obtained from PCORI-funded studies into practice. Researchers can apply for D&I funding upon completion of their research study to implement their findings in a real-world environment.

Evidence Updates

are created by PCORI to summarize key findings from the scientific report for the purpose of dissemination. These results of systematic reviews and other studies can be of particular value to clinicians and patients when making healthcare decisions.

INPUT FROM PATIENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Our funding decisions are guided by input from all sectors of the healthcare community.

- We solicit potential research topics and questions from the community.
- We prioritize topics that meet critical needs through our multi-stakeholder PCORI Advisory Panels.
- We engage patients and other stakeholders in reviewing applications for our funding.

We issue calls for research proposals through PCORI Funding Announcements, which can be found on our website at www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities. Types of announcements:

- Calls for CER studies related to our five National Priorities for Research
- Calls for proposals on specific topics prioritized by stakeholder input
- Calls for proposals for pragmatic clinical addressing specific prioritized topics

BALANCING LONG- AND SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Time to Complete

- Up to 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3-7 years

Dissemination and Implementation activities occur throughout timeline
Stakeholders provide input for report and research topics