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A

Advisory Panel

Advisory panels provide recommendations to PCORI's Board of Governors, Methodology Committee, and staff to help plan, develop, implement, improve, and refine our research agenda. While the panels do not hold decision-making authority, they are critical to PCORI's ongoing effort to ensure that patients and stakeholders provide substantive input into the refinement of the institute's research portfolio and other activities.

Awardee

An organization that has received a PCORI award (contract funding).

B

Baseline

Information base against which to monitor and assess an activity's progress and effectiveness during implementation and after the activity is completed.

Bias

When some decisions about the study population, study design, or method of analyzing the data influence research results, making the results less likely to reflect the true outcome or relationship. Applications must assess and control for research bias by addressing the strengths and limitations of their choices of who and what treatment options to study.

Biosketch

A profile of the experience and accomplishments of the key personnel in an application. A biosketch also satisfies the requirements of the PCORI professional profile.

Blinding

Researchers, study participants, or both are not aware of which participants are in which study group. They are "blind" to that information so that it does not influence their conclusions. This is done to reduce bias.

Burden

The frequency of the condition, the expected mortality and morbidity, and/or the degree of suffering associated with symptoms, complications, or other consequences of the condition. Additionally, it may include the costs to the US population of healthcare services used, the individual patient's out-of-pocket expenses, as well as intangible costs to the patient, such as time away from paid or unpaid occupations.

C

Care Transitions

The movement patients make between different clinicians or settings—such as from a hospital to home or a nursing facility—during the course of their illness.

Causal Inference

These methods help researchers find if one variable causes or predicts that another will occur. For example, a study may test the relationship between smoking and mortality.

Causation

The act or process of causing something

Clinical Data Research Networks (CDRN)

CDRNs are networks that originate in healthcare systems, such as hospitals, health plans, or

practice-based networks, and securely collect health information during the routine course of patient care.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Systematically developed statements or recommendations to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. They present indications for performing a test, procedure, or intervention, or the proper management for specific clinical problems. Guidelines may be developed by government agencies, institutions, organizations such as professional societies or governing boards, or by convening expert panels.

Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial

A study in which groups of participants (for example, all those who receive care at a particular clinic) are randomly assigned to receive one of two (or more) approaches to treatment. This type of trial is different than a study where individual participants are randomly assigned to receive one of two (or more) approaches to treatment.

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)

An individual recognized by the prime institution and the principal investigator (PI) as someone who shares scientific and administrative leadership responsibilities for a project with the PI. The Co-PI is an individual who the PI relies on to contribute substantively to the scientific development and direction of the project in addition to the execution of the project. The Co-PI shares responsibility with the PI for ensuring that milestones are achieved and contracted deliverables are completed on time. The Co-PI is considered “key personnel” and may be employed by or formally affiliated (through a written agreement) with the prime institution or a collaborating institution. The patient and/or stakeholder partner may be listed as a Co-PI. The designation of a Co-PI does not affect the PI’s roles and responsibilities nor does it imply a Dual PI Award.

Cohort

A group of individuals who share a common exposure, experience, or characteristic. For example, a cohort in one study may be all individuals who were exposed to PCORI Methodology contaminated water.

Collaborative Research Groups (CRG)

These groups are composed of content experts from within PCORnet focused on generating high-priority, engaging research questions to leverage PCORnet’s unique infrastructure. The CRGs collaborate with stakeholders including patients, caregivers, advocacy groups, providers, and funders early on to move research forward more quickly and more efficiently.

Common Data Model (CDM)

A way of organizing data into a standard structure. Each PCORnet partner network maps data to the same consistent format (i.e., with the same variable name, attributes, and other metadata).

Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

A research approach that engages community partners (such as organizations or individuals) in each stage of the research process. CBPR values the unique perspective of community members. Community members and researchers define the central problem to be addressed, conduct the research, and communicate results that can be translated into practice in that community. CBPR differs from PCOR in that it is steeped in community engagement, nurtures partnerships to realize shared outcomes over the

long term, and often occurs outside of the clinical setting. PCOR can use a CBPR approach.

Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER)

Comparative effectiveness research is the generation and synthesis of evidence that compares the benefits and harms of alternative methods to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor a clinical condition or to improve the delivery of care. The purpose of CER is to assist consumers, clinicians, purchasers, and policy makers to make informed decisions that will improve health care at both the individual and population levels.

Comparators

Two or more options for diagnosis, prevention, treatment, or healthcare delivery that would be available to the patients, caregivers, providers, and/or health systems facing the actual healthcare decision. For PCORI studies, usual care should not be used as a comparator unless it represents a legitimate and coherent clinical option (e.g., a clinical alternative based on guidelines).

Conflict of Interest

As defined by PCORI's authorizing legislation, a Conflict of Interest is any "association, including a financial or personal association, that has the potential to bias or has the appearance of biasing an individual's decisions in matters related to the Institute or the conduct of activities" [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub L No. 111-148, 124 Stat 727, §6301(a)(3)]. Conflicts of Interest will be considered and managed throughout every step of the review and selection process, including, but not limited to, the technical and programmatic reviews, the selection and assignment of scientific and stakeholder reviewers, Board of Governors deliberations, and post-award negotiations and monitoring.

Confounding/Confounders

The conclusions of some statistical analyses become less valid when researchers discover that both the suspected cause (or chosen intervention) and the outcome are both dependent on another factor. Confounders make it less clear whether the cause (or chosen intervention) would lead to the outcome without this other factor. For example, researchers may find that exercise (the intervention) is associated with losing weight (the outcome), but also find in statistical analysis that a third factor, depression (the confounder), is associated both with both successful weight loss and exercise.

Consultant

Typically an individual who is not involved with the management of the project, but instead provides general services or subject matter expertise for an hourly fee. Applicants must include a letter of support from the consultant detailing their work and rate of compensation per hour. The patient and/or stakeholder partner may be listed as a consultant.

Contract

The legally binding document that PCORI uses to make awards for research projects.

Correlation

A mutual relationship or connection between two or more things

Covariates

Also known as a predictor, explanatory variable, or independent variable. A covariate is a factor that may predict or otherwise have an effect on an outcome. For example, gender may be covariate when studying heart disease, because

it helps explain when people get the condition.

Cross sectional Study

A type of observational study that analyzes data collected from a population, or a representative subset, at a specific point in time—that is, cross-sectional data.

D

Data and Safety Monitoring Board

An independent committee of experts responsible for reviewing research study data on an ongoing basis to ensure the safety of study subjects and validity and integrity of the data.

Datasets

Composed of data not limited to one patient, but data that are tracked across time, across organizations, across patient populations or across some other variables

Decisional Dilemma

Challenging clinical choices faced by patients, caregivers, clinicians, or health systems about what works best for whom, and under what circumstances. PCORI studies should be designed to support better-informed decisions by generating evidence that improves understanding of the risks and benefits of the available options.

Dissemination (active)

The intentional, active process of identifying target audiences and tailoring communication strategies to increase awareness and understanding of evidence, and to motivate its use in policy, practice, and individual choices. The purpose of dissemination is to spread and sustain knowledge and the associated evidence-based interventions.

Dissemination (passive)

Sometimes called research diffusion, is an untargeted dissemination process whereby new evidence is absorbed and acted upon by a small body of highly motivated recipients.

Dissemination and Implementation Award

Funding to promote dissemination and implementation of evidence through two award opportunities: Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards Program and PCORI Limited Competition Awards for Disseminating and Implementing Research Findings. See also Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award.

Draft Final Research Report

The draft final research report documents all of the work completed in the PCORI-funded study. This report must include a detailed description of the study's background, methods, results, and conclusions, consistent with PCORI's Process for Peer Review of Primary Research and Public Release of Research Findings. The draft final research report goes through external peer review and may be revised by the awardee before it is accepted by PCORI as the final research report.

E

Electronic Health Record (EHR)/Electronic Medical Record (EMR)

An electronic health record is a repository of electronic information about an individual's health status and health care. EHRs contain much of the same information that is found in a patient's (paper) medical chart, but because the records are digitized, the data can be viewed, and providers (eg, primary care physicians and specialists) can capture far more extensive information. EHRs may contain administrative and billing data, patient demographics, progress

notes, vital signs, medical histories, diagnoses, medications, immunization records, allergies, radiology images, laboratory and other test results, and much more.

Engagement Award Initiative Notice (EAIN)

A targeted funding notice within the Engagement Awards Program. The purpose is to provide guidelines for available funding support for meetings and conferences that align with PCORI's mission and strategic plan, and to also facilitate expansion of PCOR and CER.

Engagement in Research

The meaningful involvement of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders throughout the research process—from topic selection through design and conduct of research to dissemination of results.

Engagement Plan

A defined strategy to effectively involve patients, caregivers, clinicians, and relevant healthcare stakeholders throughout the research process. Applicants should reference the Engagement Rubric while developing this plan.

Engagement Program Awards

These awards include our Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards and our Pipeline to Proposal Awards, which endeavor to increase patient and other stakeholder engagement in healthcare research. This program does not support research studies. Our focus is on funding innovative approaches to increase the capacity for non-researcher engagement in PCOR and CER.

Engagement Rubric

A resource intended to provide guidance regarding engagement in the conduct of research to those planning or conducting research, merit reviewers, awardees, engagement/program officers (for creating milestones and monitoring projects), and interested patients, caregivers, patient/caregiver organizations, and other stakeholders.

Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award

These awards are designed to help build a national community of patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, and other healthcare stakeholders who will advance patient-centered CER.

F

Funding Announcement

See Broad PCORI Funding Announcements (PFA), Targeted PCORI Funding Announcements, Pragmatic Clinical Studies PCORI Funding Announcements, and Engagement Program Awards.

G

Greater-Than Request

A request for budget and/or time that exceeds the total award amount and/or maximum project period specified in the funding announcement.

H

Health Disparities

Preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.

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Health Care Utilization

Quantification or description of the use of services for the purpose of preventing and curing health problems, promoting maintenance of health and well-being, or obtaining information about one's health status and prognosis.

Health Related Quality of Life (HRQoL)

Functional effect of a medical condition and/or its consequent therapy upon a patient

Hypothesis

Statement created by researchers when they speculate upon the outcome of a research or experiment.

I

Implementation

The deliberate, iterative process of integrating evidence into policy and practice through adapting evidence to different contexts and facilitating behavior change and decision making based on evidence across individuals, communities, and healthcare systems.

Incidence

Rate at which a condition or event appears in a population. For example,14 new cases of influenza per 100 adults per year.

Inclusion criteria

The factors (or reasons) that allow a person to participate in a clinical study.

Informed Consent

When capable persons agree to participate as research subjects after receiving complete information about the research project and the risks, benefits, and responsibilities of participating.

Inpatient Costs

Costs incurred for patient study participants who are formally admitted to a hospital on doctor's orders.

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

An independent group that reviews research plans to make sure that the interests of research participants are protected throughout the study. Each contractor must obtain IRB approval before beginning research and may need to report to the IRB periodically while conducting each project.

Intervention

A process or action that is the focus of a clinical study. This can include giving participants drugs, medical devices, procedures, vaccines, and other products that are either investigational or already available. Interventions can also include noninvasive approaches such as surveys, education, and interviews.

Interventional Study

A clinical study in which participants are assigned to receive one or more interventions (or no intervention) so that researchers can evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or health-related outcomes. The assignments are determined by the study protocol. Participants may receive diagnostic, therapeutic, or other types of interventions.

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K

Key Personnel

Individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive and measurable way. The contribution is independent of financial compensation.

L

Letter of Intent or Letter of Inquiry (LOI)

A notification to PCORI that an organization intends to apply. Submission of an LOI is a prerequisite to submitting an application. The Letter of Intent or Letter of Inquiry also includes information describing the proposed project.

Letters of Collaboration

Signed letters from each collaborating individual or organization that will demonstrate that the PI has the support or resources necessary for the proposed work. Letters of support from patient and stakeholder partners should clearly describe the origin of the study topic and the role of the patient partners in defining the question, outcomes, comparators, goals and outcomes, etc. Letters from the partners or partnering organizations affirming support to disseminate and implement research findings that are germane and warranted for implementation are also highly encouraged.

Letters of Organizational Support

Letters of support signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organizational official, confirming the institutional support of the proposed project, space to conduct the research, equipment, and other resources available for the project, including staff. A letter from the leadership of your department or organization affirming support to disseminate research findings that are appropriate and warranted for implementation may also be included.

Limited Competition

The process by which only certain groups may apply for an award, such as only PCORnet networks or teams that have a completed PCORI project.

Longitudinal Study

A longitudinal study is an observational research method in which data is gathered for the same subjects repeatedly over a period of time. Longitudinal research projects can extend over years or even decades. In a longitudinal cohort study, the same individuals are observed over the study period.

M

Mean

This is a statistic of the average across a group of participants – for example, a group of 40 patients may have their blood pressure measured, and an average of all the measures is presented as a single number.

Median

The midpoint of measurements across a group of participants. For example, a group of 40 patients may have their blood pressure measured, and the scores placed in order from highest to lowest. The media would be the “middle” number on that list. Half of the people have higher scores, and half have lower scores.

Merit Review

A review of the scientific and technical merit of applications for funding. Merit review consists of both online and in-person reviews by qualified reviewers who read, score, and provide feedback

on the applications.

Meta-Analysis

Data from several studies are combined to draw a general conclusion about an effect across the studies. Meta-analysis is used to gain more precise evidence of a treatment's effects.

N

Null Hypothesis

The prediction that there is no relationship or difference between two variables. For example, a study on heart disease and depression might have a null hypothesis that predicts there is no relationship between these two conditions.

O

Observational Study

A type of research method that uses data from patients as they are being treated by their doctors rather than through random assignment by researchers. In an observational study, patients with a diagnosed condition receive different treatments selected by them and their providers. Researchers then compare the outcomes experienced by patients who received one treatment with the outcomes of those who received a different treatment. Data can be collected prospectively or retrospectively.
►**Prospective:** A study that answers research questions by defining the research question first and then collecting the data over time after the question is defined. Participants are followed to see how factors may contribute to outcomes.
►**Retrospective:** A study that answers research questions using historical data (e.g. electronic health records, surveys). The data can be used to look back and study factors that may have contributed to observed outcomes.

Organization

The institution/organization in which the project originates, or the primary institution or organization that received funding for the project.

Outcomes

The effects of an interventions, or what happens after an intervention is given. For example, survival, reduction in symptoms, quality of life, quality of care. Each study's "primary" outcome is its most important effect. The primary outcome is used to calculate a study's sample size and statistical power

Outpatient Costs

Costs incurred for patient care when the patient is not formally admitted to a hospital.

P

Patient

Individuals who have or have had the condition under study; it may include patient surrogates or caregivers as well. It does not necessarily mean, but does not exclude, patient advocates or patient navigators.

Patient Engagement

Meaningful patient involvement throughout the research process—from topic selection through design and conduct of research to dissemination of results

Patient Investigator

Patients or other stakeholders involved in the investigation of PCORI research who have a role in guiding the aims of the study.

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Patient Partners

Patients who are representative of the population of interest in a study, as well as their family members, caregivers, and the organizations that represent them. Patient partners are not to be confused with patient subjects; patient partners are members of the research team and involved in the planning, conduct, and dissemination of the research, whereas patient subjects are those individuals enrolled in the study as participants.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR)

Research that helps people and their caregivers communicate and make informed healthcare decisions, while allowing their voices to be heard in assessing the value of healthcare options. This research answers patient-centered questions. A full definition can be found on our website.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Network (PCORNet)

PCORnet is a network of networks that brings together patients, clinicians, researchers, and healthcare systems to share information and participate in research. PCORnet's Clinical Data Research Networks (CDRNs) include hospitals, doctors' offices, health centers, or other facilities that provide services to patients. The Patient-Powered Research Networks (PPRNs) are made up of patients and their families, caregivers, researchers, and other people or organizations focused on specific medical conditions or populations of interest. "A large, highly representative, national network for conducting clinical comparative effectiveness research (CER) and other types of patient-centered health research. It fosters a range of observational and interventional research that harnesses the power of clinical data gathered at the point of care in health systems across the country"

Patient-Powered Research Networks (PPRN)

PPRNs are operated and governed by patient groups and their partners, and are focused on particular conditions or populations.

Payers

Those who function as financial intermediaries in the health system, including private insurers and public insurers, and organizations representing insurers, such as America's Health Insurance Plans.

PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA)

PCORI's notice of a funding opportunity and request for applications. A PFA describes our intent to fund research in specific areas. Each PFA has a summary of the opportunity and guidance for proposing research for funding. It is accompanied by Application Guidelines and templates or forms for submission through PCORI Online.

PCORI Funding Center

The central location on PCORI's website where applicants can access all templates, guidelines, information, and training needed to prepare and submit an application. Available at in our funding center.

PCORI Information Request

During the application phase, the process by which PCORI program staff or contract staff request additional information from an applicant by a defined deadline, usually to address questions or concerns.

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Peer Review

The goal of peer review is to ensure that the primary research studies funded by PCORI are held to the highest standards of scientific integrity, methodological rigor, and relevance and usefulness to patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders. Our process includes review of study findings by content experts, methodologists, patients, and other healthcare stakeholders with experience related to the study.

Pilot Project

PCORI funded the Pilot Projects to explore how to conduct and use patient-centered outcomes research in ways that can better serve patients and the healthcare community.

Pipeline to Proposal Award

The Pipeline to Proposal Awards program provides seed money to individuals and groups who have healthcare research ideas and an interest in patient-centered CER. The awards will be used to build capacity and engage community around a healthcare research interest. These awards focus on building the community of patients, stakeholders, and researchers who can participate in patient-centered outcomes research.

Placebo

A harmless medicine or procedure given to a study subject as a control so that the outcomes can be measured against those who have the actual medicine or procedure. The placebo does not contain active ingredients and is made to be physically indistinguishable (that is, it looks and tastes identical) from the actual drug being studied.

Pragmatic Clinical Study (PCS) PCORI Funding Announcements

These announcements seek applications for pragmatic clinical trials, large simple trials, or large-scale observational studies that compare two or more alternatives for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or management of a disease or symptom; improving healthcare system-level approaches to managing care; or eliminating health or healthcare disparities.

Population

The group of people that are the focus of the research

Power

Study's ability to detect a statistically significant difference between the outcomes of different variables. The amount of statistical power is based on the number of people in the study (the sample size) and the amount of outcomes experienced by the people who received an intervention. Many health studies are designed to have 80% power.

Pragmatic Trials

Pragmatic trials take place in a real-world environment, as opposed to a research setting. They use simple criteria for inclusion and exclusion to enable enrollment of a wider range of patients and study sites. There are fewer burdens imposed on participants so that the patient experience of those enrolled in the study is similar to the experience of patients who are not enrolled in the study.

Prevalence

Prevalence refers to the number of cases of a disease that are present in a particular population at a given time, whereas incidence

refers to the number of new cases that develop in a given period of time. Prevalence is often described as a percentage of a population that is affected by a condition at any one time.

Primary Condition/Disease

These are the broad terms we use to categorize our funded research studies; specific diseases or conditions are included within the appropriate larger category. Note: not all of our funded projects focus on a single disease or condition; some touch on multiple diseases or conditions, research methods, or broader health system interventions. Such projects won't be listed by a primary disease/condition and so won't appear if you use this filter tool to find them. But you can use the keyword search box to find any PCORI-funded study.

Primary Outcome

The planned outcome measure in the protocol that is the most important for evaluating the effect of an intervention. Most clinical studies have one primary outcome measure, but some may have more than one.

Principal Investigator

The person(s) in charge of a clinical trial or a scientific research grant. The principal investigator prepares and carries out the clinical trial protocol (plan for the study) or research paid for by the grant. The principal investigator also analyzes the data and reports the results of the trial or grant research.

Program Director

The individual(s) designated by the applicant organization to have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to direct the project or program to be supported by the award.

Programmatic Review

A review of the scientific portion(s) of the application to ensure that it meets PCORI's programmatic requirements. These may include but are not limited to: presence of a CER question; absence of a cost effectiveness question; and, when applicable, addressing the specific research question in a targeted funding announcement.

Project End Date

Includes the research project period and may be subject to modification to allow other research-related activities such as peer review.

Project Start Date

The date of approval to fund by the PCORI Board of Governors. The actual project start dates vary as the negotiation of project milestones must be completed before the contract can be fully executed.

Project Status

View definitions of the life cycle of an awarded project

Project Title

The original title of the project supplied by the project lead or team.

Project Type

Research projects are designed to improve patient outcomes by comparing two or more care approaches and enhance the methods and infrastructure needed to support such research. Research support projects are not research studies but designed to encourage better integration of patients and other stakeholders into the research process.

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Prospective Observational Study

A study that answers research questions by defining the research question first and then collecting the data over time after the question is defined. Participants are followed to see how factors may contribute to outcomes.

Protocol

A plan that outlines the procedure for conducting research in detailed steps. Protocols are created before the beginning of a study. It includes the study's objectives, design, and methods. It may also include relevant scientific background and statistical information.

Public Abstract

A summary of the research plan or research findings that is written for, and will be accessible to, a general (lay) audience.

Purchasers

Those who purchase health benefits for employees and their dependents, including individual businesses as well as local, state, regional, and national business groups, coalitions that represent businesses, and health coalitions.

R

Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)

An experiment in which participants are randomly allocated to receive one of two (or more) diagnostic, preventive, therapeutic, or palliative interventions and are then followed to determine the effects of the intervention. Randomization helps to minimize bias. Randomization also helps to ensure the research study is fair for participants, since patients are assigned by chance to different treatment groups.

Reasonable Costs

A cost may be considered reasonable if the nature of the goods or services acquired or applied is appropriate and justifiable. The amount involved reflects the action that a prudent person would have taken under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision to incur the cost was made.

Reliability

Describes the repeatability and consistency of a test.

Renewed Support

Approval of an additional funding period for the same project within the approved project period. The original agreement will remain in place and additional funds obligated near the end of each funding period. Any funds remaining on the contract prior to the new obligation will remain available for the recipient's use.

Reproducibility

The research study's findings would be the same if any other group conducted the research using the same data or similar data cohort.

Research Study Design

A plan for collecting data to find out what is going on (descriptive or observational) and why is it going on (experimental)

Research Team

A group of people organized to function cooperatively to design and conduct research. For PCORI, teams should be interdisciplinary, and include patients and other stakeholders as key contributors to the research process.

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Resubmission

An application that was submitted and received a summary statement, but was not funded and is being resubmitted to the same PFA for new consideration. An application that was withdrawn before merit review, or an LOI that was not invited to provide a full application, would not be considered a resubmission.

Retrospective Observational Study

A study that answers research questions using historical data (e.g. electronic health records, surveys). The data can be used to look back and study factors that may have contributed to observed outcomes.

S

Sample Size

The number of people who provided data in a study, often expressed as "n." For example, n=250 means the data from 250 people were collected in the study.

Secondary Outcome

A planned outcome measure in the protocol that is not as important as the primary outcome measure, but is still of interest in evaluating the effect of an intervention. Most clinical studies have more than one secondary outcome measure.

Selection Bias

The bias introduced by the selection of individuals, groups or data for analysis in such a way that proper randomization is not achieved, thereby ensuring that the sample obtained is not representative of the population intended to be analyzed. It is sometimes referred to as the selection effect.

Sensitivity

The ability of a test or statistical analysis to determine a "true positive" result consistently. An example of a false positive is when a screening test determines that an individual has a condition, when they do not, in fact, have that condition.

Shared Decision Making

An intervention or approach that draws on and presents available evidence to inform patients of available treatment options and their risks and benefits, and either engages patients in a decision-making process with their clinician or promotes their ability to engage in such a process.

Specificity

The ability of a test or statistical analysis to determine the "true negative" result consistently. An example of a false negative is when a screening test determines someone does not have a condition, when they, in fact, do have it.

Stakeholder Partner

Members of constituencies based on professional, rather than personal, experience. These can include clinicians, healthcare purchasers, payers, industry, hospitals and other health systems, policy makers, training institutions, and researchers. Some individuals may fit into several categories.

Stakeholder

Stakeholder partners may include members of constituencies based on professional, rather than personal, experience. For example, these constituencies can include: clinicians, purchasers, payers, industry, hospitals and health systems, policy makers, and training institutions. Some individuals may fit into several

categories. Find more information on how PCORI defines stakeholders here.

Stakeholder Engagement

Meaningful involvement of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders throughout the research process—from topic selection through design and conduct of research to dissemination of results. Healthcare stakeholders include a broad range of communities have a stake in the effectiveness of our healthcare system (Examples include: patients, clinicians, researchers, purchasers, payers, industry, hospitals and health systems, policy makers, and training institutions).

Statistical Significance

Probability that the results of a study are due to chance, often expressed as a "p value" – e.g., p <0.05 means there is less than a 5% probability that the study findings are due to chance (and, therefore, there is a greater than 95% probability that the study findings are due to the variable being studied).

Study Advisory Committee

For Targeted PFAs and Pragmatic Clinical Studies (PCS), the SAC described in the PFA is to ensure that a broad spectrum of patients and other stakeholders advise and assist the research team with refining the study questions, outcomes, and protocols. These patients and other stakeholders must include national or regional organizations that represent, at a minimum, patients, caregivers, clinicians, policy makers, and other healthcare system stakeholders.

Study Registration

PCORI-funded studies are required to register in ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT) or the National Library of Medicine's Health Services Research Projects in Progress (HSRP) database. Study registration information includes study aims, patient population eligibility, interventions and comparators, outcomes measures, and, as required, participant recruitment status.

Subcontractor

An individual or group who takes a portion of a contract from the prime contractor (awardee) or from another subcontractor.

Summary Statement

For applications that are discussed at the in-person merit review meeting, the summary statement includes a final overall average application score, a summary of the application discussion at the in-person merit review meeting, and preliminary online reviewer critiques. For applications that are not discussed at the in-person merit review meeting, the summary statement includes only the preliminary online reviewer critiques. Summary statements no longer include any preliminary review scores.

Systematic Review

A way to determine what is known about the effectiveness of an approach to care by identifying and summarizing all of the relevant scientific literature based on pre-set rules for including, excluding, and weighting published evidence.

T

Targeted PCORI Funding Announcements (Targeted PFAs)

These announcements seek applications on specific, high-impact topics selected in response to input from patients and other stakeholders through our advisory panels and public workshops. These are one-time opportunities.

REACHnet
Research Action for Health Network

Research 101 Glossary

Technical Abstract

A summary of the research plan that is written for scientists and researchers.

Transitional Care

A range of services designed to ensure continuity and promote safe and coordinated transitions between settings and clinicians.

Transitional Care Evidence to Action Network

A network of PCORI-funded awardee teams and stakeholders collaborating around the topic of transitional care.

Translational Research

Applying scientific findings into practice - in clinical settings and in the community. This helps decide what works and what does not work in real-world settings, and provides new ways to help people solve health problems.

Q

Qualitative Research

Exploratory and descriptive research that is used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations. It provides insights into the problem or helps to develop ideas or hypotheses for potential quantitative research.

Quantitative Research

Method that emphasizes objective measurements and the statistical, mathematical, or numerical analysis of data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys.

V

Validity of Measurement

How well a measure accurately represents an outcome. Some measures have better validity than others. For example, surveying patients about the severity of their symptoms in the last two weeks may provide more accurate answers than asking them about symptoms a year ago.

Variable

Characteristic that varies from one study participant to another. **Independent variables** are the cause and **Dependent variables** are the effect or outcome

Y

Year Awarded

The year the PCORI Board of Governors approved funding for the project or the year the proposal received a notice of award.

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Additional Resource

PCORI Research Methodology 101

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