

Multi criteria decision-making and patient preferences: a stepping-stone towards patient centered HTA

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Patient centricity started a change of paradigms in health care decision-making. Patients can add valuable information and therefore patient evidence should be considered in approval, treatment and pricing decisions. Patient-centered outcomes are part of the answer to the challenges posed by complex clinical decision problems due to multiple outcomes.

Multiple decision criteria require that clinical and regulatory decisions be based on implicit value judgments of experts. Experts are under continuous pressure to make sure decisions are aligned with patients needs and result in a good performance. In order to fulfill this role and guarantee efficient decisions, experts must be fully informed about patients' preferences.

Therefore patients' preferences can be a valuable source of information, in order to inform clinical and regulatory decision makers. Moreover, those responsible have also to test if different patients attach different values to specific health care interventions. Heterogeneity in patients' preferences may lead to different perceptions of individual or social benefits and therefore result in different behavioral patterns.

Health technology assessment (HTA) rarely addresses the question of how patient groups value different treatment characteristics. The information provided should not only provide preferences but also cluster specific patient segments based on their preferences. Evidence about patients' preferences and patient segments will not only be a game changer in health care decision-making, but also impact the way health care delivery systems are organized.

This presentation is starting out with the problem of multiple decision criteria in health care decision-making and will demonstrate with the example of an IQWIG pilot project how to inform decision makers about patient preferences in order to compare competing health care interventions. Decision-makers have the wish to be informed about the expectations and needs of those affected and the public has a desire to have their preferences incorporated in setting priorities in health care. This need is already recognized, but not yet fully reflected in practice. □