An importance of research within the ISPOR Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Consortium

Report on the activities of the Research Committee of the Central and Eastern Europe Consortium

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Background

One of the most important distinguishing factors between the Western European jurisdictions (often referred to as EU-15) and Central and Eastern European (CEE) jurisdictions is in the proportion of medical health care budget that is devoted to pharmaceuticals. In relative terms, this national budget is much higher in the CEE countries than in the Western European countries, usually exceeding 20 per cent. In absolute terms on per capita basis, the reverse is true: the Western European countries assign to pharmaceuticals on average roughly double the amount of the CEE jurisdictions.

Combination of high relative and low absolute expenditure has important implications for the policy making, pricing, and reimbursement/market access in the CEE jurisdictions. It is thus not surprising that there is a great interest in pursuing research specifically geared toward the challenges within CEE region.

Overview

Against this backdrop, the Research Committee of the ISPOR Central and Europe (CEE) Consortium already in 2014 started a number of research projects across the CEE basin and through subsequent years included additional ones. As can be ascertained from Table 1, the research ranged from policy-making studies in the arena of generics, biologics, and orphan drugs to studies in specific disease areas, such as COPD and diabetes. It is noteworthy that eight out of ten projects have already been completed.

Table 1. A list of research research projects conducted within the Research Committee of the ISPOR Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Consortium

Title of the study	Year of commencement	Status (March 18, 2018)
Application of Multicriteria Decision Making	2014	Completed
Benefit of Innovative Medicines	2014	Completed
Evaluation of Generic and Biosimilar Drug Policies	2014	Completed
Patient-Adherence/Real World Outcomes	2014	Completed
Impact of Parallel Trade	2014	Completed
Policy Approach to Technologies in Rare Diseases	2014	Completed
Study of Epidemiology & Economics of Typical Practice of Management of Patients with COPD	2014	Completed
Burden of Hepatitis C in CEE Countries	2016	Completed
Cost of Diabetes-Related Cardiovascular Events in CEE	2016	On track
Payer Preferences for MCDA	2016	On track

Examples of studies

The research undertaken in the study »Evaluation of Generic and Biosimilar Drug Policies« was particularly ambitious with the overall objective to develop multicriteria decision tool for generic and biosimilar drug policies in the CEE countries. While starting off with the generic policies, the study later on focused entirely on biosimilar policies, which are particularly important in the CEE jurisdictions due to their potential for both cost-saving and market access impact. The research within this study produced, among others, six peer-reviewed publications and 2 issue panels at the ISPOR Annual European Congresses.

More recent, still ongoing study »Cost of Diabetes-Related Cardiovascular Events in CEE« is conducted in cooperation with the partner from pharmaceutical industry and is encompassing eight CEE countries. The study has also an additional objective of raising awareness about the importance of the treatment costs of diabetes-related cardiovascular events.

Future work

Specific challenges within the CEE jurisdictions are serving as a particular impetus to drive research, which is including a number of countries and a number of policy and disease arenas. As economical resources devoted to the healthcare within CEE are relatively scarce, the application of rigor and principles of health economics and outcomes research (HEOR) should be of even higher priority. There are some obvious choices for the future work, such as (i) progress in HEOR and policy making for medical devices, diagnostics, and imaging and (ii) building public procurement following the principles of HEOR.

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2) ISPOR issue panel: Hren R, Tesar T, Inotai A (2016) Extending the use of biosimilar drugs: are we willing to accept the uncertainty related to switching in order to imporve patient access to modern medicines? ISPOR 19th Annual European Congress, Vienna, Austria