

# Moving the Needle: Value and Use of Real-World Evidence in Oncology Clinical Pathways Decision-Making

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## Introduction

- Oncology presents unique challenges with limited time frames to demonstrate therapeutic value.
- This research investigates the role of RWE in complementing traditional RCTs to inform clinical decision support and payer strategies, ultimately driving more patient-centric care and value-based decision-making.

## Methods

- An advisory board of eight US oncology clinical-decision makers was conducted to understand RWE utilization in oncology pathways (Table 1).

Table 1. Advisory Board Participants\*

ADVISOR	ROLE
1	Director of Pharmacy at an Academic Cancer Institute
2	Chief Pharmacy Officer at an Academic Medical Center
3	Director of Pharmacy Cancer Care Services at a Large Private Integrated Health Medical Center
4	Director, System Pharmacy Formulary Management & Clinical Services at an Integrated Health Delivery System
5	Former Medical Director at an Oncology Medical Center
6	Medical Director at a large Integrated Delivery Network (IDN)
7	Medical Director at an Academic Medical Center
8	Former Pathway Adopter at a Cancer Institute

\*Pharmacy directors (n=4); Medical directors (n=3); Consultant (n=1)

- A formal gap analysis assessing actionable data needs, stakeholder confidence in RWE, and dissemination strategies to inform pathways and clinical decision support was presented to participants. Emphasis was placed on RWE role in validating clinical trial findings, addressing critical patient-centric outcomes, and optimizing pathways (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Study Objectives



## Conclusions

- This research underscores a call to action for oncology stakeholders.
- Leveraging RWE in a collaborative environment is an opportunity and an imperative to optimize treatment pathways, strengthen clinical decision maker alignment, deliver superior patient outcomes, and enhance patient care in the evolving oncology landscape.

## Results

- Advisors agreed RWE has significant potential to reshape oncology decision-making when it directly informs actionable outcomes, validates treatment effectiveness beyond clinical trials, and considers patient experiences and financial impacts (Figure 2).
- Challenges persist, including inconsistent interpretations of RWE potential, non-standardized research prioritization, and a lack of practical application frameworks (Figure 3).

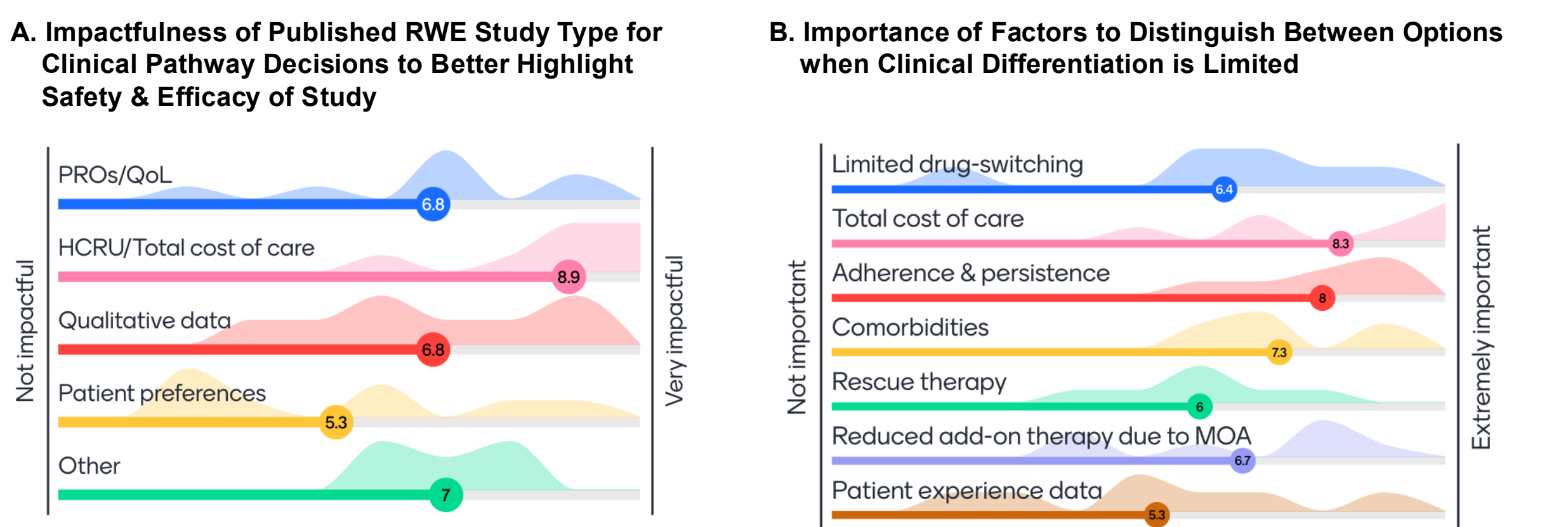
Figure 2. Summary of Key Findings



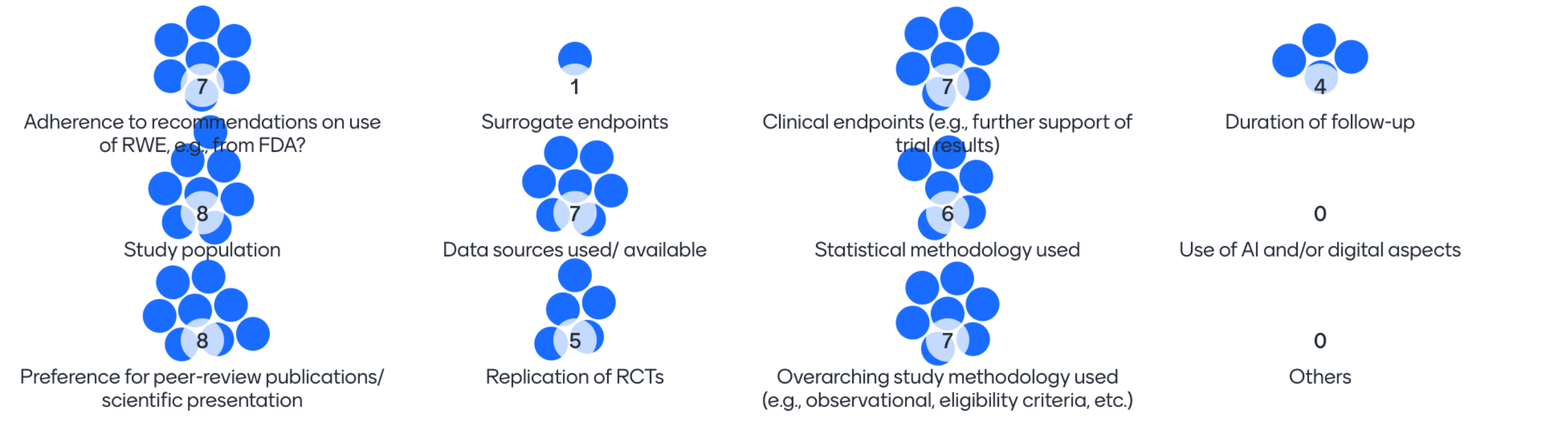
## Discussion

- There is a critical need for more nuanced, collaborative approaches to integrating RWE into oncology clinical decision-making.
- By prioritizing actionable, patient-centered outcomes, fostering strategic partnerships, and addressing implementation challenges, RWE can significantly enhance the quality of clinical decision support.

Figure 3. Advisor Ratings on Perceived Value of Key RWE Study Design Elements (N=8)



C. Importance of Design Elements to Ensure Confidence in Oncology RWE Being Generated to Support Clinical Pathway Decisions



- To overcome these challenges in RWE acceptability, advisors identified promising opportunities through collaboration (Table 2).
- While all agreed these collaborations can strengthen evidence generation, enhance quality measure understanding, and create more robust data collection, most agreed these measures were not currently implemented.

Table 2. Opportunities and Areas of Improvement for Decision Makers and Pharma Collaboration

THEMES	TAKEAWAYS
Partnerships	One decision-maker has established 5 collaborative partnerships with pharma companies, and they are continuing to grow and are described as ongoing
Data Analytics Support	Partnerships involve entities that perform data analytics based on specific needs from pharma companies
Value for Pathway Analysis	Collaborations extend beyond general data analytics and are valuable for pathway analysis This highlights the multifaceted utility of RWE in various aspects
Nference Collaboration	Specific mention of collaboration with Nference, a company that works with pharma partners, with Mayo Clinic as the expert
Internal Data Analysis	Organization engages in internal data analysis based and data submitted, emphasizing a commitment to reduce bias and increasing reliability of analysis
Publication Collaboration	Collaborative efforts extend to publications, with pharma participants serving as co authors on papers produced by one organization
Data Transferability	Emphasis on importance of data being transferrable, indicating focus on interoperability and use of products that can effectively read and integrate various types of data, including scans

- This integrated approach suggests RWE faces implementation hurdles; coordinated efforts among stakeholders could substantially enhance its practical utility in healthcare decision-making.