Project IDEATE: Designing a Robust Methodology for an Experimental, Retrospective Outcome-Based Agreement in a Breast Cancer Treatment

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Summary

- Implementation of OBAs has been limited due to complexity in design and data collection.
- We worked collaboratively across organisations and disciplines to build consensus on key parameters for a feasible OBA.
- We have designed a 12-step approach to develop an OBA for implementation.

Introduction

- Outcome-based agreements (OBAs) have the potential to align incentives of payers and providers of therapeutics around patient and population health.
- Many barriers prevent their routine implementation, including contract design, data challenges, administrative burden, and the benefits/risks perceived by payers.
- We aimed to co-create a robust, systematic methodology for OBA design in partnership with the Welsh healthcare system to overcome existing barriers and succeed in a real-world setting.

Methods

- IDEATE developed a methodology for OBA design focused on improving patient health outcomes.
- We facilitated workshops for outcomes, data, and contract design with a range of stakeholders including clinicians, pharmacists, commissioners, and data experts to build consensus on key parameters for the experimental OBA, including priority clinical outcomes.
- In parallel, we created a novel linked real world data environment for the analysis.

Results

- Our iterative OBA methodology resulted in a consensus across diverse, multidisciplinary stakeholders and navigated many barriers to develop a feasible OBA design for real-world implementation.
- This was achieved through a 12-stage process covering key considerations as outlined below and in Figure A:
  1. Relevant population
  2. Outcomes
  3. Outcome measurement
  4. Risk stratification
  5. Outcome benchmark
  6. Defining performance metrics (Figures B & C)
  7. Outcome aggregation
  8. Contract structure
  9. Contract period and term
  10. Risk sharing
  11. Payment formula
  12. Contract revision provisions

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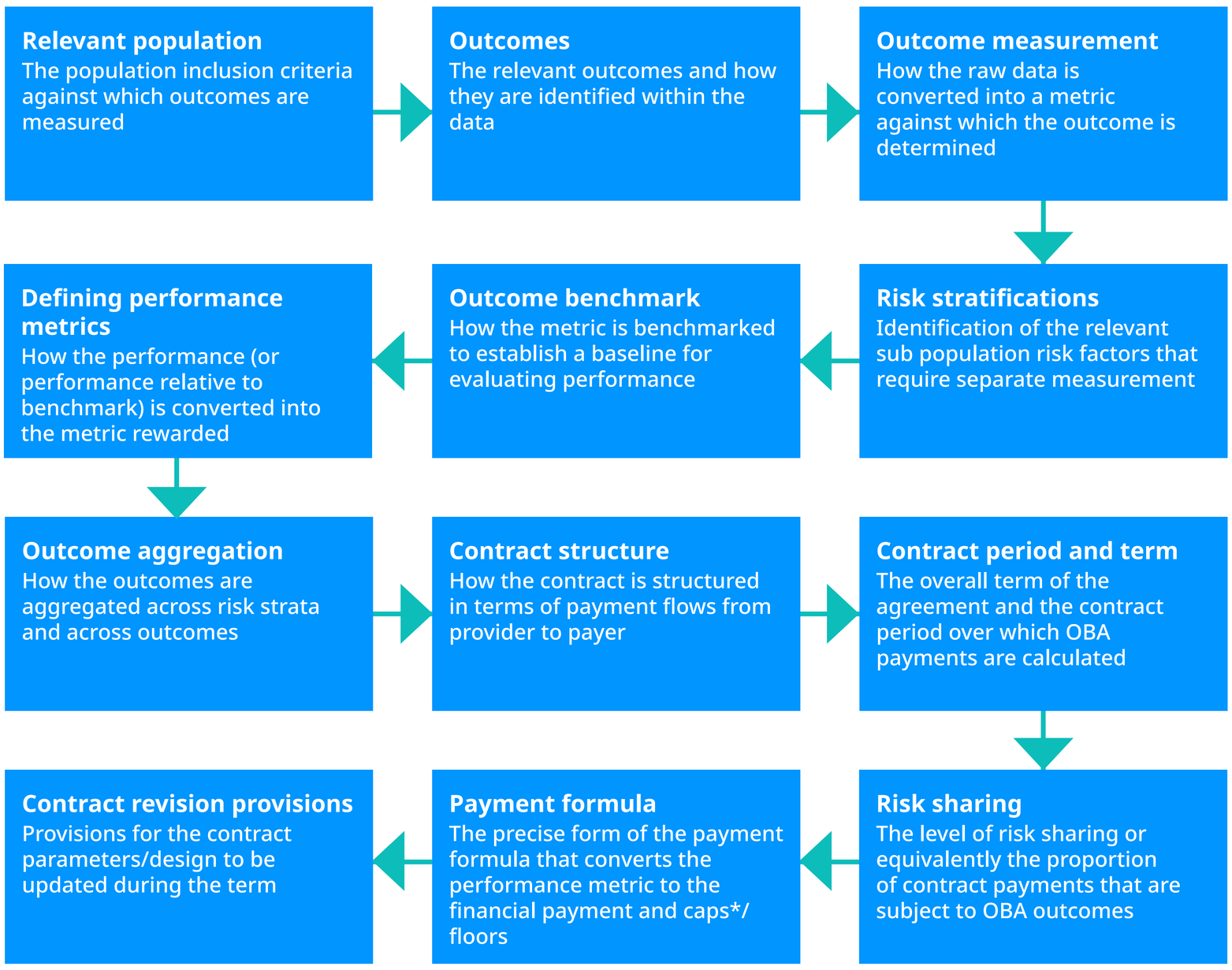
Figure A – 12 key steps to designing an OBA



*The caps within the payment formula could be applied to either existing payments levels or higher

Figure B – Defining the performance metric: Payment due under threshold model

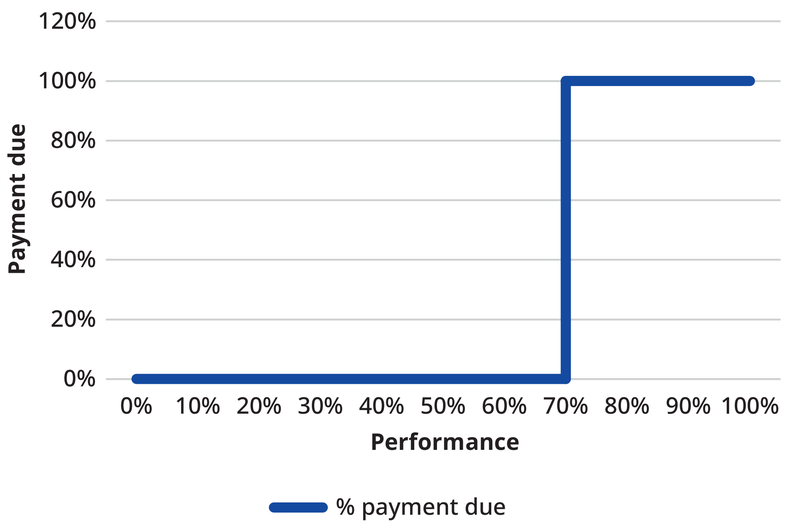
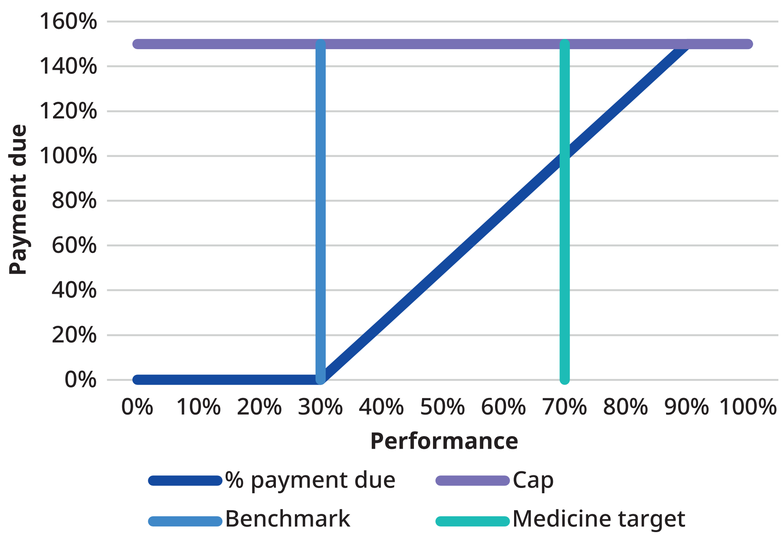


Figure C – Defining the performance metric: Payment due under linear model



Conclusion

- Trust and transparency proved key for effective collaboration and dynamic problem-solving.
- System readiness in Wales highlighted a unique environment to solve OBA barriers.
- Our cross-disciplinary and cross-organizational methodology is generalisable to a range of health interventions.
- Understanding cash flow across multiple years' budgets needs additional research for successful OBA operationalisation.