Health Economics and Outcomes Research of Mental Health

Value in Health

The global burden of mental health conditions is substantial, impacting the quality and length of life of billions of people around the globe. The World Health Organization has launched a 5-year (2019-2023) special initiative on mental health in 12 priority countries in response to the increasing prevalence of mental health disorders and growing concern about their impact on populations. Recent data also point to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, with 4 in 10 adults in the United States reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression in early 2021. High-quality real-world data and economic evaluations of interventions to prevent, diagnose, and treat mental health conditions and increase mental well-being are critical to support appropriate resource allocation decisions and national and global policy development.

Economic evaluations of mental health conditions present additional challenges in methodology and design, including issues around the measurement of clinical effectiveness, outcomes measurement, the collection of patient-reported outcomes, privacy and confidentiality rules around mental health data, stigma, health equity issues for populations experiencing marginalization, and caregiver and societal burden. The themed section will also explore factors that will potentially disrupt the field of mental health, including the use of electronic health records and real-world data to inform economic evaluations and cost-effectiveness analyses, the use of artificial intelligence to prevent and diagnose mental health conditions, the availability of digital therapeutics for treatment, the increasing interest in mindfulness and meditation as potentially effective and cost-effective interventions, and more.

It is important to note that this themed section is not soliciting submissions on Alzheimer's disease, as this will likely be the focus of a separate themed section. However, specific conditions of interest may include (but not be limited to) attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, opioid and alcohol use disorders, anxiety, depression, suicide, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, personality disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder, dementia, pre- and post-natal mental health, well-being, gun violence associated disorders, etc. The Editors are also interested in special populations including children, adolescents, people who are pregnant or who have given birth, and populations from communities experiencing marginalization such as women, people who are non-citizens, people who inject drugs, people who are unhoused, justice involved populations, seniors, people in conflict zones, etc. The Editors are interested in receiving the following types of papers:

- Original research and high-quality economic evaluations of prevention, diagnosis, or treatment interventions for mental health conditions

- Systematic reviews or high-quality reviews of economic evaluations of mental health conditions, including in diverse geographic areas

- Research studies on innovations and emerging disruptive factors that may potentially change the landscape in mental health interventions

- Reviews summarizing the methodological and design challenges of conducting outcomes research and/or economic evaluations in the field of mental health

- Systematic reviews or high-quality reviews of guidances from health technology assessment organizations on the conduct of evaluations of interventions for mental health-related conditions

Please direct any content-related questions to the Guest Editors, **Jagpreet Chhatwal, PhD** (jagchhatwal@mgh.harvard.edu) and **Rachael Fleurence, PhD, MSc** (rachael.fleurence@nih.gov).

Submissions received before **November 30th, 2023** will have the best chance of being published in *Value in Health* in 2024. All submissions will undergo the journal's peer-review process before the Editors make final decisions about papers to be included in this themed section of *Value in Health*.

Authors should submit manuscripts through the journal's online submission system at https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/valueinhealth and be sure to indicate in their cover letter that the paper is to be considered as part of the Mental Health theme.

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