CURRENT AND FUTURE USE OF PHARMACOECONOMIC AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH DATA IN DECISION MAKING IN THE USA

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Objective:
To understand how Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (PEOR) data are used in decision making today and how this may change in future.

Background:
The methodology and quantity of PEOR has advanced considerably over the last decade. With increasing utilization of healthcare, prioritization becomes unavoidable and PEOR evidence should be increasingly valuable to supplement efficacy and safety data for reimbursement and access decisions. As a key part of the request for comparative effectiveness evidence an increasing use of PEOR data can be expected in future decision making processes.

Methods:
An internet based survey was conducted among (pharmacy) decision makers in Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) companies, health plans, Managed Care Organizations (MCO), Veterans Affairs (VA) Health plans, and Medicaid/Medicare plans in the USA in April 2010. The survey was distributed via the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. There were 9 demographic questions and 24 questions around the use of HEOR in current and future decision making.

The 72 respondents represented organizations with national (54%), regional (32%) and local coverage (14%). Membership varied from 50,000 to 100 million with a median of 500,000.

Requirements to Increase Use of HEOR in Decision Making

- Clear definition of HEOR data requirements: 54%
- More HEOR expertise in decision committee(s): 47%
- Need for in-house data analysis: 42%
- Regular re-evaluation of decision: 39%
- Increased prospective data collection: 36%
- Collaboration across health plans: 25%
- Strict request for dossiers in AMCP format: 8%
- No changes required: 7%
- Major changes required: 7%

Conclusions

- PEOR is used often in decision making in the USA.
- However, few organizations defined quality criteria for PEOR. Improved standards for quality control of such evidence are needed.
- There is a consistent expectation that the use of this data will increase.
- A concern is a lack of expertise to evaluate this information.
- For the future, an increased use of HEOR data in decision making and contracting is expected.

Another survey will be targeted to the systems and decision makers in selected European and Asian countries to compare the utilization of PEOR in the different decision making environments.