

Advisory Panel on Improving Healthcare Systems (IHS) Meeting Summary

June 2014

Overview

On May 8 and 9, 2014, the Advisory Panel on Improving Health Systems (IHS) met at PCORI headquarters in Washington, DC, to discuss potential topics for future program initiatives and to provide insight and feedback on program processes and overall strategic direction.

The Advisory Panel on Improving Healthcare Systems is made up of 21 representatives of patients, caregivers, clinicians, researchers, payers, and other stakeholders. The panel welcomed its newest member, Dr. Michael Duenas of the American Optometric Association, and was joined by PCORI leadership and staff. The meeting was open to the public via teleconference, and slides and meeting materials were posted to the website in advance of the sessions.

Advisory Panel co-chairs Drs. Trent Haywood and Doris Lotz led panel members in a productive discussion following up on several areas that arose from the January 2014 meeting, including: clarification of the panel's roles and responsibilities with respect to the selection of topics; the most appropriate funding vehicles for those topics; and production and dissemination of an inaugural IHS newsletter and other refinements to communication with panel members.

Panel members, in concert with Dr. Kara Odom Walker, Deputy Chief Science Officer for PCORI, and Dr. Steven Clauser, IHS Program Director, explored the unique contribution they make to the definition and expansion of the IHS portfolio and how their work supports the broader PCORI research agenda and internal scientific review processes.

Related Information

- [About This Advisory Panel](#)
- [Meeting Details and Materials](#)

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is an independent organization created to help people make informed healthcare decisions.

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Introduction

The Advisory Panel on Improving Healthcare Systems reviewed an outline of the roles and responsibilities of Advisory Panelists, and discussed specific opportunities to strengthen the communication and interaction between PCORI staff and panelists. The discussion was followed by a review of how best to strategically evaluate the IHS portfolio, and finally, a majority of the session was focused on prioritizing new topics for future funding. Several weeks prior to the in-person meeting, panel members were provided with an outline of the role of IHS Advisory panelists, 10 detailed [topic briefs](#), and topic presentation assignments to help guide the panel discussion.

Role Clarification, Communication, and Opportunities for Involvement

During its [last meeting on January 13, 2014](#), the IHS Advisory Panel focused on opportunities for improvement related to clarity of roles and responsibilities and communication flow. As a follow-up, panelists started this meeting by commending PCORI staff for doing a good job of incorporating feedback they provided during the last session. The main improvements they focused on included timely distribution of materials in preparation for meetings, the distribution of an inaugural IHS Advisory Panel newsletter, monthly meetings with Advisory Panel co-chairs, and the new formation of IHS Advisory Panel subcommittees. Overall, panelists expressed a greater comfort with understanding their roles, feeling more informed about what is going on in the Improving Healthcare Systems program, and at PCORI.

The Advisory Panel co-chairs also reported on the initial discussions and next steps of two separate Advisory Panel subcommittees: 1) the creation of a strategic framework for the IHS portfolio that will align with the broader PCORI strategic framework; and 2) insurance options as a potential topic for funding. The purpose of the subcommittees is to meet separately with a small group of panelists who are specifically interested in or have expertise with the subjects under consideration. The subcommittees will meet via teleconference on an ad hoc basis moving forward to help refine the topic areas of interest.

Dr. Clauser also briefed the Advisory Panel on a potential opportunity to support patient-centered comparative effectiveness research in partnership with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) on its national Choosing Wisely campaign. The topic was well received, and several panelists expressed an interest in hearing more as the project is developed. The IHS program will work collaboratively with the Communication and Dissemination Research program on this initiative. The Advisory Panelists will hear more about the initiative in the future as it is considered for potential funding.

Deputy Director of Patient Engagement Suzanne Schrandt, JD, also gave a presentation on PCORI's Patient Engagement activities, including the launch of the Ambassador's Program. Several panelists expressed interest in becoming involved with the Ambassador's Program.

Topic Prioritization Results

The bulk of the one-and-a-half-day meeting was spent in thorough review and discussion of nine topics, which were identified through the PCORI [Topic Generation and Research Prioritization process](#). Several weeks prior to the in-person meeting, panel members were provided with detailed [topic briefs](#) and assigned a topic for broader panel discussion. The panelists were assigned by PCORI staff according to subject matter expertise. The panel commended PCORI staff for the quality of the topic briefs and for timely distribution of needed materials.

Throughout the course of meeting day 1, two previously assigned panelists presented each topic under consideration, then a half-hour discussion between all panelists followed. Panelists shared their feedback regarding the importance of the topics, reasons why they felt they were or were not good candidates for future PCORI funding announcements, and provided other general feedback regarding opportunities for addressing the topic-related issues. PCORI staff indicated that three to four top-ranked topics would move forward for potential development into future PCORI funding announcements (PFAs). After review and discussion of all nine topics, panelists completed a prioritization exercise using the SurveyGizmo tool. The exercise was led by PCORI staff and results were shared the morning of day 2 in preparation for further discussion of the topics and the final re-ranking and prioritization exercise at the end of day 2.

The prioritization exercise resulted in three highest-ranked topics: Patient Engagement in Quality Improvement Projects; Linkages Between Providers and Community; and Patient and Caregiver Engagement in Chronic Mental Illness. In addition, the group emphasized a strong interest in a fourth topic on chronic pain, which will be pursued potentially in collaboration with the Clinical Effectiveness Research (CER) program at PCORI, as they are already working on funding a similar topic.

Next Steps

Following the prioritization, Dr. Steve Clauser, IHS Program Director, indicated that staff will begin vetting the highest-ranked topics in preparation for potential future funding. In addition, staff will follow up with panel members to schedule subcommittee calls and the next Advisory Panel meeting in the fall.

Results of the Topic Prioritization Exercise

Topics for Consideration:

1. Health IT and Treatment Adherence in Chronically Ill Patients
2. Multicomponent Interventions and Medication Adherence in Chronically Ill Patients
3. Communication Technologies and Patients with Chronic Conditions
4. Patient and Caregiver Engagement in Chronic Mental Illness
5. Rural and Frontier Trauma
6. Medical Homes versus Care Management for Chronic Conditions
7. Patient Engagement in Quality Improvement Projects
8. Linkages between Providers and Community
9. Multidisciplinary Treatment Approaches in Chronic Pain

Top Ranked Topics:

1. Patient Engagement in Quality Improvement Projects
2. Linkages between Providers and Community
3. Patient and Caregiver Engagement in Chronic Mental Illness