

Methods. We carried out a thematic review of the existing evidence on the involvement of patients and the public in HTA, including: technology appraisals consultation 2017 (110 comments); technology appraisals consultation 2018 (205 comments); and PIP review consultation 2017 with a CHTE focus (162 comments). We used Thomas and Harden's (2008) thematic synthesis to code the data 'line-by-line', to develop 'descriptive themes', and then to generate 'analytical themes'. This was followed by using Patton's (1999) triangulation of qualitative data sources to further challenge and refine the emergent themes.

Results. We identified three themes, namely (i) earlier and full engagement, (ii) simpler and easier engagement, and (iii) patient evidence. Respondents emphasised the significance of involving patients earlier and throughout the process of developing every appraisal to enable them to gain a greater sense of participation and ownership. Respondents also expressed a strong view of making it simpler and easier for patients to engage in the process through various methods, e.g., standardising the approaches, and support and training. Finally, respondents expressed their positive attitudes toward using patient evidence in HTA, clarifying how patient evidence is captured and used, and offering a clear feedback mechanism to the impact of patient evidence on decision-making.

Conclusions. This review highlighted the significance of earlier and full engagement with people, making it simpler and easier for people to work with us, and being clearer about how we use patient evidence with a clearer feedback mechanism as to the impact of their input on the final decisions.

VP04 The Influence Of Sponsorship On The Treatment Effects Of Trials

Chiara Arienti, Negrini Stefano, Bruno Da costa and Susan Armijo-Olivo (susanarmijo@gmail.com)

Introduction. Limited public money is available for funding research and the majority of clinical research undertaken is funded by industry. Mechanisms to regulate conflicts of interest within the research process have been implemented. However, these policies by themselves do not protect against potential sponsorship bias that would affect research results to inform decision makers when using the results of these trials. Therefore, the main aim of this study was to evaluate the influence of sponsorship bias on the treatment effects of RCTs.

Methods. This was a meta-epidemiological study. A random sample of RCTs included in meta-analyses of physical therapy (PT) area were identified. Data extraction including assessments of appropriate influence of funders was conducted independently by two reviewers. To determine the association between biases related to sponsorship biases and effect sizes, a two-level analysis was conducted using a meta-meta-analytic approach.

Results. We analysed 393 trials included in forty-three meta-analyses. The most common sources of sponsorship for this sample of PT trials were government ($n = 205$, 52.16 percent) followed by academic ($n = 44$, 11.2 percent), and industry ($n = 39$, 10 percent). The funding was not declared in a high percentage of the trials ($n = 85$, 22 percent). The influence of the trial sponsor

was assessed as being appropriate in 246 trials (63 percent) and considered inappropriate/unclear in 147 (37 percent) of them. There was a significant difference in effects estimates between trials with appropriate and inappropriate influence of funders ($ES = 0.15$; 95% CI -0.03, 0.33;). Trials with inappropriate/unclear influence of funders tended to have on average a larger effect size than those with appropriate influence of funding

Conclusions. Treatment effect size estimates were 0.15 larger in trials with lack of appropriate influence of funders. Systematic reviewers should perform sensitivity analyses based on appropriateness of influence of sponsorship in included trials.

VP06 HTA And Health Industry: Key Aspect Of Their Relationships

Ana Toledo-Chávarri (anatoledochavarr@sescs.es), Lidia García Pérez, Lilisbeth Perestelo-Perez, Maria del Mar Trujillo-Martin, Yolanda Alvarez-Perez, Borja Garcia-Lorenzo, José Luis Castro-Campos, Inaki Imaz-Iglesia, Blanca Novella, Yolanda Triñanes Pego, Estefania Herrera-Ramos, Antonio Sarria-Santamera, Mireia Espallargues and Pedro Serrano Aguilar

Introduction. Conclusions and recommendations of health technology assessment (HTA) reports have an impact on all relevant actors involved in the health system (health authorities, administrators, health professionals, patients, citizens and industry). The involvement of all those relevant stakeholders in the HTA process facilitates making valid and informed decisions and an efficient allocation of resources. Improving communication, participation and transparency among all agents will lead to more efficient evaluation and decision-making processes.

Methods. To review key aspects of the relations between HTA agencies and health industries, two process were carried out: a narrative review of literature searched in Medline, PubMed, Embase, CINAHL and WOS (2007-2017) and a review of websites of international HTA agencies. References and webs with information on the framework, objectives, methodologies, impact or results of the relationships were included.

Results. A total of 1961 references were located and forty-five were selected. From the synthesis of the selected references the following key aspects of the relationships between HTA and industry were identified: (i) the importance of early dialogues with industry to align HTA objectives with the generation of evidence; (ii) challenges of the bias in the evidence produced by industry; (iii) difficulties in industry engagement in HTA processes; and (iv) industry interest in HTA. The review of six agency websites provided information on industry involvement in strategic activities, early dialogues, provision of documentation, management of industry clarifications, review of the report/allegations and other forms of relationship.

Conclusions. Both the review of the literature and the contents of the web pages of international agencies with experience in relations with industry show that the interest is in the creation of collaborative frameworks between regulatory authorities that decide