Current AHRQ Activity in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

Jean R. Slutsky, P.A., M.S.P.H.
Director, Center for Outcomes and Evidence
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Fourth National Comparative Effectiveness Summit
Washington, DC – November 5, 2012
The Landscape Is Quickly Changing

- Health care reform has already begun
  - How is evidence integrated into the new environment?
  - How has the nature of evidence changed?
  - How do these changes affect providers, payers and patients?
- How do we ensure that these changes are beneficial?
“The truth is that for a large part of medical practice, we don’t know what works. But we pay for it anyway.”

H. Gilbert Welch, MD
Geisel School of Medicine
at Dartmouth
Current AHRQ Activity in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

- Background: AHRQ and PCOR
- Recent Developments
- A Look Ahead
- Questions
Patient-Centeredness: The final frontier?

- Patient-centeredness may be the most challenging of all 6 domains of quality, because it is so difficult to define and measure.
- But, it is also likely the most important, because it includes elements of all other domains.
AHRQ’S Authority

- **Section 1013; Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act**
- **Three parts:**
  1) Transparent, collaborative process for setting priorities
  2) Conduct and support research
  3) Assure that findings are accessible and understandable by multiple audiences
Implementing Evidence-Based Treatment Decisions

- Which treatments work, for which patients, and what are the trade-offs?
  - Patient-centered outcomes research informs decisions by providing evidence and information on effectiveness, benefits and harms

- How can evidence-based improvements be translated and shared with providers, patients?
  - Effective Health Care Clinician and Consumer Guides
  - Continuing Medical Education
  - Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation; AHRQ Health Care Innovations Exchange
From 2005 to 2009, AHRQ received $129 million from Congress for patient-centered outcomes research.

Program has published more than 100 products, including summaries for clinicians and consumers, with plans for 75 more.

Emphasis on synthesis of existing evidence and creation of new evidence.
EHC Products Developed
By the Eisenberg Center

www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov
ADHD in Children

ANA and RF tests for Musculoskeletal Complaints in Children

Chronic Pelvic Pain

Mechanical Thrombectomy

Pain Management in Hip Fracture

Preventing Fractures in Low Bone Density

Urinary Incontinence in Women
**Prioritization and Message Development**

**National awareness of CER and specific findings**

**Publicity Center**

**Deeper awareness of CER and findings at regional, local, or system level**

**Regional Offices**

**Individual clinician education and practice-level implementation**

**Academic Detailing & Online CE**

**Evaluation**

---

*Example: New Diabetes CER*

- **Media campaign**
- Outreach to national orgs (i.e. ADA, AADE, Endocrine Society, AACE)
- Outreach to consumers

- Integrate message into Diabetes package
- Promote via regional/State chapters of national orgs, local advocacy orgs, and regional health systems

- Integrate clinical message into Diabetes AD package
- Promote/discuss in individual practice settings
- Create and promote CE modules based on individual findings

---

*Patient Centered Outcomes Research Dissemination Framework*
The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund and AHRQ

- Provides funding for AHRQ to disseminate research findings
  - Up to 20% of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund can be used to support research capacity building and dissemination activities

- Five national priorities:
  - Assessment of prevention, diagnostic, and treatment options
  - Improving healthcare systems
  - Communications and dissemination research
  - Addressing disparities
  - Accelerating patient-centered outcomes research and methodological research

www.pcori.org
Multidisciplinary Science: EDM Forum Research Networks

11 Projects Using Electronic Health Research for CER/PCOR and QI

- Networks include between 12,000 and 7.5 million patients
- Potential reach of networks: Up to 50 million patients
- 38 CER studies
- Address all AHRQ priority populations and almost all AHRQ priority conditions

www.edm-forum.org
First Journal Supplement

- 14 commissioned and invited papers
- Informed by ongoing ARRA-funded work
- Three domains:
  - Analytic Methods
  - Clinical Informatics
  - Governance

www.edm-forum.org
Prioritizing Future Research Needs

**Identifying Research Needs for Improving Health Care**

- Article describes challenges and lessons learned in developing a systematic approach to identifying and prioritizing future research needs (FRN)
- Based on the approach initiated by EPCs in 2010 to better define patient-centered research needs from selected systematic reviews
- Focuses on stakeholder involvement as an essential tenet in the process

Series of reports summarizing the evidence on quality improvement strategies for chronic conditions and other priorities:

- Bundled Payment
- Health Disparities
- Patient-Centered Medical Home
- Public Reporting
- Medication Adherence

http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/gapbundtp.htm
Registries increasingly used to inform clinical decision-making

- Chapters on topics including:
  - When to Stop a Registry
  - Use of Registries in Product Safety Assessment
  - Linking Registry Data
  - Interfacing Registries and Electronic Health Records
Expanding/Enhancing the Evidence-Base

AHRQ Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Grants

- **Infrastructure Development Program (R24)**
  - Responds to need for information about which clinical and system design interventions are most effective for patients under specific circumstances

- **Mentored Career Enhancement Award (K18)**
  - Seeks investigators interested in developing new skills in patient-centered outcomes research methodology and applying those methods to the research

[www.ahrq.gov/fund/grantix.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/grantix.htm)
Maintaining the Status Quo is Not an Option

- Evidence is being produced at an extremely rapid rate, but its incorporation into clinical practice is happening much more slowly.
- Transparency efforts don’t offer enough usable data for decisions regarding a specific disease and selection of a treatment option.
- We face an underperforming health care system and untenable cost forecasts.
- Too often, the patient is an afterthought.
What Should the New Model Look Like?

That remains to be determined, although overall things to consider include:

- Stakeholders are engaged more and more when the strategic decisions are being made.
- Making evidence available earlier and during different intervals of a project.
- Thinking of publication as one step in the continuing process to get results into the hands of those who need it rather than the end of the research cycle.
- Testing multiple conclusions in the field rather than waiting until there is a ‘right’ answer.
Where to From Here?

- Do more to ensure that new treatments and research knowledge reach patients and are implemented correctly
- Improve quality by improving access
- Expand the boundaries of basic science to include other “basic sciences” (e.g., epidemiology, psychology, communication, social marketing and economics)
- More focus on research and delivery of existing treatments

Woolf S. The Meaning of Translational Research and Why It Matters, JAMA January 2009
Your Role in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

- **Nominate topics**
  - Go to: effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov
  - Click on “Submit a suggestion for research”

- **Comment on key questions and draft reports**

- **Use evidence reports to develop clinical recommendations**
  - Clinician guides make recommendations about the evidence, not the clinical practice
Thank You

AHRQ Mission
To improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans

AHRQ Vision
As a result of AHRQ's efforts, American health care will provide services of the highest quality, with the best possible outcomes, at the lowest cost

www.ahrq.gov