The Patient: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research

A Pilot Study to Identify Areas for Further Improvements in Patient and Public Involvement in Health Technology Assessments for Medicines

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Supplemental Digital Content

This Supplemental Digital Content contains the information referred to in the full version of this article, which can be found at http://adisonline.com/thepatient

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Appendix 1: Interview Script for Patient Involvement in HTA Project

Experience and Role

I want to first start off this interview by understanding a bit of what you do and how it relates to health technology assessments (or you may call it HTA).

What is your current role or job?

What is your experience in the HTA process?

What country are you based in?

HTA Knowledge

In this section of the interview I will be asking you some questions about your views on HTA. For my first few questions, I want you to think about what HTA means to you. I’m interested to know about what you think of the process in general. So let’s get started...

The words ‘health technology assessment or HTA’ can mean different things, to different people. What does HTA mean to you? What are HTA/health technology assessments?

Run through with me a typical HTA process: what happens in the process? How long does it take? Who is involved? What are the objectives of the process? What is achieved in the end?

Now I want to turn you attention to public/patient/or citizen involvement in HTA.

What does it mean to involve patients or public in HTA? What does public involvement in the HTA process mean to you?

In your opinion is patient involvement in HTA a positive thing? Or maybe a negative thing?

Can you give an example where patient involvement would be useful...and an example where it would not be as helpful? Why do you believe this to be true?

How does patient involvement in HTA benefit the process or overall outcome?

Before we move on to the next section of the interview do you have anything else you want to share about your views of patient participation in HTA?

HTA Experience

Now that I know a bit more about what HTA means to you, I want to move on to discuss a your experience with HTA.

What is your experience with HTA?

Have you been directly involved in the HTA process?
If NO, skip
If YES, can you tell me about:
   How you were involved?
   Why you were involved?
   What did you contribute?
What was the process like? Atmosphere, quality of interaction, efficiency, etc
Did your presence/message influence any decisions?
Where you meaningfully engaged? Why/why not?
What should stay the same...what should change?

Now I want to move on to a few general questions about what SHOULD happen in the 
Process in regards to patient involvement:

What role do patients or advocacy groups play in HTA?
Who tends to get involved in the HTA process and why?
Why should patients or advocacy groups be involved in the process? What value is added?
What do patients or advocacy groups add to the HTA process?
What motivates patients or advocacy groups to participate in the HTA process?
What stages are patients/public typically involved in HTA? Is this a good stage? What can be improved?
What should happen in the process to facilitate greater patient/public involvement?
How can the public better get their message across in HTA? How can the patient message be tailored to committees and HTA members?
How should the message be structured? How should the message be delivered...what medium?
What should be the focus of the patient message...most useful in the HTA process?
Do you think patient/groups feel fully engaged? Why/why not?
Do they have any influence? Example?

**Recommendations**

*For this part of the interview, I want you to imagine that you could design your own HTA system for public involvement. I want you to think about some of the areas in the system that could be improve to facilitate patient and public involvement, but let’s first start off with what currently works in the HTA systems that you are familiar with.*

What works well in current HTA systems in relation to patient/public participation?
Why does that work so well? What aspects of that process allow it to work so well?
What does not work as well in terms of public involvement in HTA? Or What needs to be improved?
How can these improvements be made? What steps can be taken along the way to better involve the public/patients in the HTA process.

Who should make these improvements and why?

What do these new improvements add to the process? What is the benefit? Would there be any costs involve? Would there be a trade-off involved?

*Is there anything else you would like to add?*