

Using the best available evidence to inform decision making on complex interventions: Building the future through increasing public and patient involvement in Health Technology Assessment

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Issue

- Policy making processes should be informed by the values and experience of patients and communities.
- Patient and public involvement (PPI) is important but currently under developed in Health Technology Assessment (HTA).



Description of policy

- Actively involving lay people in HTA and taking account of their issues and perspectives to ensure these sources of evidence can inform decisions that directly affect patients and their families and carers.
- This may enhance value of HTA, particularly of complex and public health related interventions.

Methods

- The INTEGRATE-HTA project is developing new methods to assess complex interventions and applying these to a palliative care case study.
- PPI to inform scope development has been established in 6 countries (UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Italy and Poland)
- 21 individual, face to face qualitative patient interviews have been conducted in 3 countries (Germany, Italy & the Netherlands).
- With patients as research partners, an adapted version of the EUnetHTA core model guided 30 face-face discussions in 3 countries (U.K. Norway & Poland).

Results

Mechanisms for lay involvement vary across Europe:

- Requirement for ethical committee approval for PPI activities varies depending on whether consultation is regarded as a research process.
- Some countries have existing patient groups who can contribute to PPI.

Main messages

- Successful and timely PPI could enhance the value and transparency of HTA & evidence synthesis.
- There is little evidence about how PPI can be used at all stages of the HTA process in different settings and health systems.
- More experience of different methods of PPI is needed – the INTEGRATE-HTA study will explore this through a palliative care case study.

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