Minutes – Cancer Medicines Forum

May 23, 2024, 13:00 am – 16:00 pm CET; Teams Meeting

Chairperson: Denis Lacombe (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, EORTC)

Co-chairperson: Francesco Pignatti (European Medicines Agency, EMA)

Scientific coordinator: Caroline Voltz-Girolt (EMA)

Cancer Medicines Forum members: European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), European Haematology Association (EHA) and International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG)

Observers: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), HTA body (Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen, IQWiG), patient representative (Patvocates), industry representative, European Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE), International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) and European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

Guests: National Payer's Evaluation Committee for Specialised Medicines and Companion Diagnostics (CieBAG), The Netherlands; Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Health Technology Assessment, Austria; Slovenian Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, Slovenia.

Welcome and adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

The Chairs welcomed the members, observers and the guests (members of national competent authorities on pricing and reimbursement from the Netherlands, Austria and Slovenia). The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted without comments.

Conclusions of the CMF workshop

The CMF workshop took place on April 5th 2024 and it was hosted by the EMA (report available here). The CMF Chairs shared their reflections on the role and importance of the workshop and emphasized the next steps. They highlighted the need to focus on systematically implementing treatment optimisation research within the current clinical research framework.

Additionally, the EMA shared an update on ongoing discussions and actions to integrate treatment optimisation concerns into its current processes (from scientific advice to post-authorisation studies). During the discussion, numerous stakeholders acknowledged the significant progress made by the regulator on treatment optimisation-related topics.

Next steps and new directions of the CMF

The CMF Chairs invited members, observers and guests to share their views on the next steps of the CMF and potential new directions that could be explored. During the discussion, stakeholders suggested considering the following concrete actions:

- Create a structured and systematic approach to identify and select treatment optimisation research questions, generating recommendations for prioritising certain questions based on pre-specified criteria;
- Formulate treatment optimisation questions to serve as a basis for discussion with different stakeholders and potentially different member states, exploring possibilities for international collaborations;
- Pursue regulatory and policy actions to improve current frameworks, both in the pre- and post-authorisation settings;
- Generate discussions on the most appropriate methodological aspects of these studies, considering both feasibility and the acceptability of the study designs by decision-makers.

Next CMF meetings

The CMF will meet on a quarterly basis and below an overview of the remaining dates for 2024:

- 1st October
- 17th December