



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

Including patient preferences and patient-reported outcomes in global development programmes, submissions and labels

5th Industry Stakeholder Platform on R&D support

16 November 2020

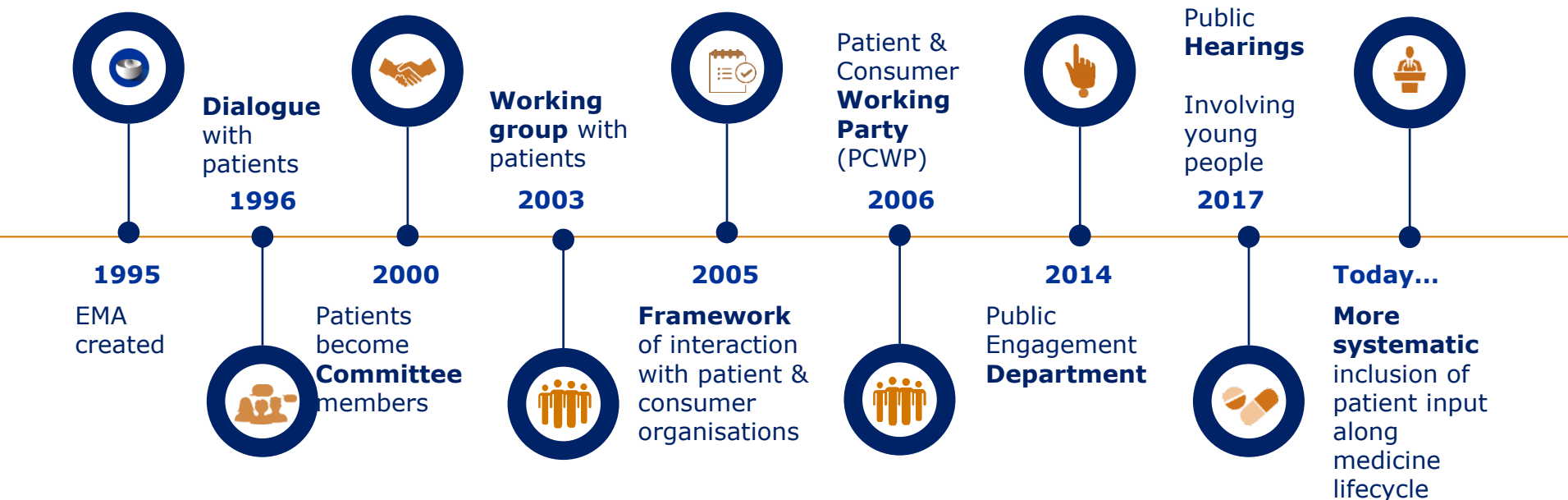
Presented by Francesco Pignatti
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An agency of the European Union



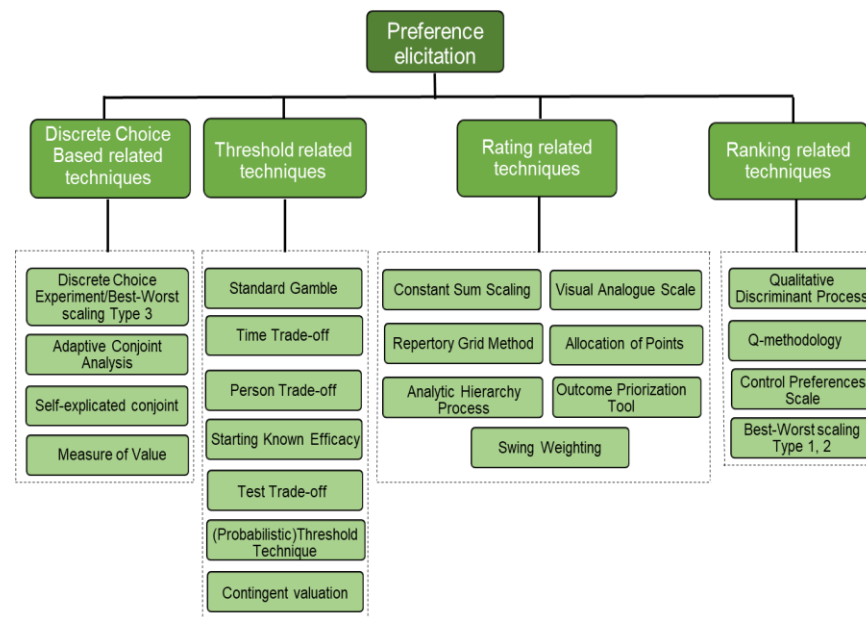


Involving patients - a progressive journey



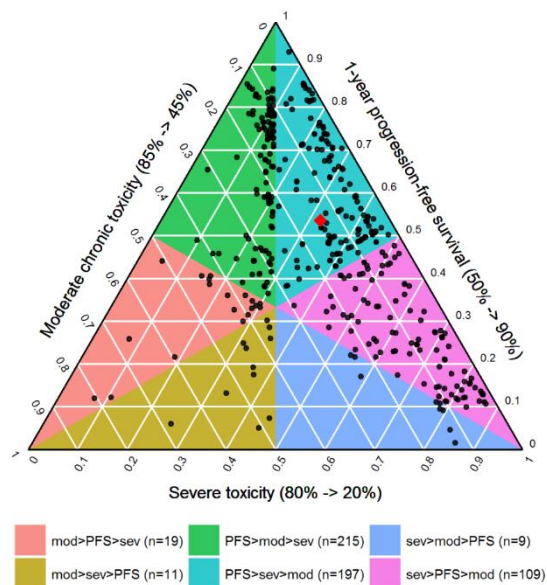
How to elicit preferences (trade-offs): old and new methods

- Key issues and concerns are being described (PREFER Project)
 - A description of commonly used and suitable methods
- Regulatory experience and guidance are currently lacking
- Impact for drug regulatory assessment and decisions?
 - Well suited for quantitative benefit-risk assessment



Soekhai et al., 2019, Value in Health & PREFER report

Trade-offs in benefit-risk assessment

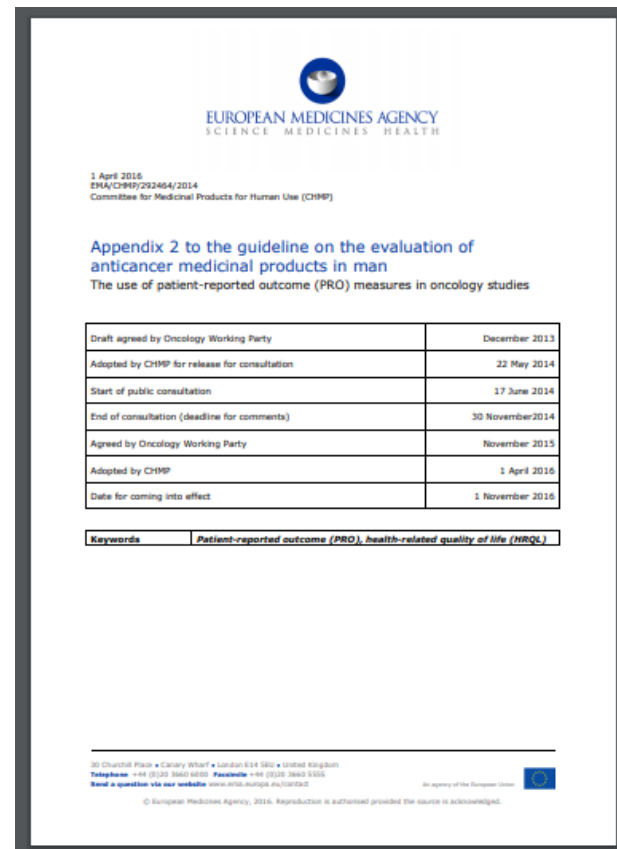


Postmus et al. The Oncologist 2018; ADDIS 2, IMI Get Real



PROs in cancer drug applications

- Usefulness of describing patient utilities about treatments in oncology is increasingly recognised (CHMP anticancer guideline)
- PRO analyses are often included in pivotal clinical trials as secondary or exploratory endpoints
- Claims about the effect of a medicinal product on PROs, either positive effect or lack of negative effect, are often proposed





Possible guiding principles for assessment and labelling

- Claims in the SmPC will depend on:
 - Reliability and validity of the PRO effects described (scientific standards)
 - Adequacy of tools
 - Usefulness of knowledge of PRO effects and uncertainties for doctors and patients
 - May vary depending on the clinical setting
- Internationally agreed regulatory standards are needed
- Important ongoing initiatives standards: SISAQOL-IMI

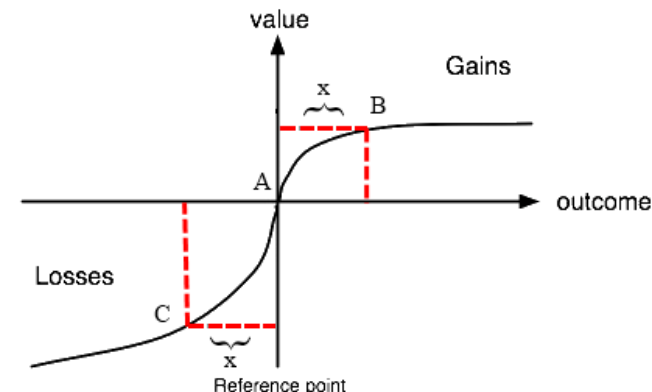
Table 1. Information for Reporting Randomized Controlled Trials With Patient-reported Outcomes

Section/Topic	Item	CONSORT 2010 Statement Checklist Item	PRO-Specific Extensions Are Prefaced by the letter P
Title and Abstract	1a	Identification as a randomized trial in the title	
	1b	Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions (the specific guidance see CONSORT for structure)	P1b: The PRO should be identified in the abstract as a primary or secondary outcome
Background and objectives	2a	Scientific background and explanation of rationale	
	2b	Specific objectives or hypotheses	P2b: The PRO hypotheses should be stated and relevant domains identified, if applicable
Trial design	3a	Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial, crossover, or cluster)	
	3b	Methods	P3b: The PRO hypotheses should be stated and relevant domains identified, if applicable
Participants	4a	Eligibility criteria	
	4b	Settings and locations where the data were collected	P4b: The PROs were used in eligibility criteria
Interventions	5a	The interventions for each group with sufficient detail to allow replication (including how and when they were administered)	
	5b	Any changes to interventions after the trial commenced	
Outcomes	6a	Comparison of PRO instrument validity and reliability	
	6b	Any changes to PRO instrument after the trial commenced	P6b: Evidence of PRO instrument validity and reliability should be provided or cited if available including the version, comparing the PRO and methods of data collection (paper, telephone, electronic, other)
Sample size	7a	How sample size was determined	
	7b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	Not required for PRO unless it is a primary study outcome
Sequence generation	8a	Method used to generate the random allocation sequence	
	8b	Type of randomization: details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)	
Allocation concealment mechanism	9a	Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to prevent the sequence from being uncovered	
	9b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	
Implementation	10a	Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions	
	10b	If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those assessing outcomes) and how	
Blinding	11a	Blinding	
	11b	If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions	
Statistical methods	12a	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	P12a: Statistical approaches for dealing with missing data are explicitly stated
	12b	Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses	
Participant flow (a diagram is strongly recommended)	13a	For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, assigned intended treatment, started treatment, and completed the study	
	13b	For each group, losses to follow-up and exclusions after randomization, together with reasons	The number of PRO outcome data at baseline and at subsequent time points should be made transparent
Recruitment	14a	Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up	
	14b	Why the trial ended or was stopped	
Baseline data	15a	A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group	
	15b	Why the trial ended or was stopped	Including baseline PRO data when collected
Numbers analysed	16a	For each group, number of participants (denominator) by original assigned groups	
	16b	For each group, number of participants who were analysed by original assigned groups	Required for PRO results
Outcomes and estimation	17a	For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, the estimated effect size, and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)	
	17b	For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended	For multidimensional PRO results from each domain and time point
Ancillary analyses	18a	Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses (disaggregating)	
	18b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	Including PRO analyses, where relevant
Harms	19a	All important harms or unintended effects in each group (for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms)	
	19b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	
Limitations	20a	Trial limitations, including sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses	
	20b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	P20b: PRO-specific limitations and implications for generalizability and clinical practice
Generalizability	21a	Generalizability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings	
	21b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	
Interpretation	22a	Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence	
	22b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	PRO data should be interpreted in relation to clinical outcomes including survival data, where relevant
Registration	23a	Registration number and name of trial registry	
	23b	When the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available	
Funding	24a	Registration number and name of trial registry	
	24b	Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs, use of vehicles)	

Calvert et al. JAMA 2013

The risk of “methodology aversion” in drug regulation

- Fear that toolboxes may turn into black boxes
- Uncritical adoption may lead to false conclusions and patient harm
- *Not* to use novel, robust methodologies has equally detrimental consequences
- Need to evaluate and validate methodologies (“qualify”): prospectively, well controlled, and according to a pre-agreed plan



Bauer et al. NRDD, 2014; Eichler et al. CPT, 2020



Take home messages

- Great opportunity for drug regulators to become more **systematic** about collecting patient trade-offs and utilities, and using them in the assessment or to inform doctors and patients
 - Well-suited for quantitative benefit-risk assessment methods
- Many types of new data and approaches: **validation** and **evaluation** (“qualification”) are needed before **confidence** in methods and regulatory **guidance** can be produced