

Consumer-Purchaser ALLIANCE

Better information. Better decisions. Better health care.



February 12, 2014

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
1828 L St., NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Seeking Input on Future PROMIS® Research (RFI # PCO-PROMIS2014)

To Reviewers of the RFI:

The Consumer-Purchaser Alliance represents a collaboration of leading consumer, labor, and employer organizations committed to improving the quality and affordability of health care through the use of performance information to inform consumer choice, provider payment, and performance improvement. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Request for Information (RFI) on the Future of PROMIS® Research.

Patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs) are an essential component to understanding the value of services provided to patients. PROMs can facilitate patient-centered care by asking patients directly for information and then engaging with them on the results. Not only do PROMs address issues that are important to patients, they recognize patients as the experts in providing this information. It is a perspective that cannot be obtained from any other data source. Given this unique perspective, PROMs can compliment other performance information and contribute to a better understanding of quality of care. Amongst consumers and purchasers, this has been identified as a high priority in filling current gaps in performance measures.

PROMIS is a reliable, valid, and responsive measurement system for patient-reported health status. It includes a suite of standardized measures that address a variety of domains and can be used for multiple conditions. It has great potential in significantly reducing current gaps in performance measures in a short period of time. Thus, we strongly support research that would foster the use of PROMIS in assessing the performance of providers, both at the individual level as well as higher levels of aggregation (e.g., medical groups, ACOs) and encourage PCORI to make this a priority in funding. Such research could include how meaningful differences/changes over time get translated into provider performance or “cross walks” with other PROMs, particularly proprietary instruments, to remove the barrier of comparability with providers using other PROMs.

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On a cautionary note, we hope that the rigor of the research does not unduly delay making information available to consumers. Given patients every day are making decisions about their care with inadequate information on quality, we strongly hope you take into consideration the impact this would have. Most patients would prefer to have imprecise information rather than nothing at all.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to this RFI and look forward to continuing to engage with you on this important issue. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Eames Huff
Director