Assessing and Improving Value in Cancer Care

A National Cancer Policy Forum Workshop

Policy Context

- Oncology spending is rising >15% percent annually, faster than total health care spending
- Much of the cost increase in oncology is driven by three factors
  - Replacement of less expensive with more expensive treatments
  - More aggressive use of treatment and treatment combinations
  - Prolongation of the period of treatment
- Cost is becoming an increasingly intrusive concern for patients, providers, and payers alike

Factors that discourage consideration of evidence concerning safety, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

- Cancer patients perceive themselves (often correctly) to be in life threatening situations.
    - Creates pressures to use technologies with less evidence supporting effectiveness if the alternative is usual care with a known mortality risk.
    - Patients and physicians discount harms of treatments when they perceive that the situation is life threatening

- Many view costs as a secondary or even improper consideration in treatment decisions that might influence the patient's survival

- Health delivery system incentives favor the application of treatments over other factors that many consider important
    - Examples:
        - providing information
        - comfort measures
        - end of life planning

STATEMENT OF TASK

- Address issues related to value in cancer care, focusing in particular on:
  - Achieving a greater agreement on
    - A definition of value in oncology
    - Metrics for assessing value
  - Identify policy tools that can lead to improvements in the value of cancer care services provided to patients

Workshop Content

- Definitions of value
- Physician-patient communication
- Metrics of effectiveness to inform value discussions
- Stakeholder perspectives on value
- Payer systems that consider value
- Ethical issues

Value Matrix

Stakeholders /Dimensions	Health Insurers		

Definitions of Value

Merriam Webster's Dictionary

Value (\'val-(,)yü\ ) *noun*. Middle English (14th century)

1. A fair return or equivalent in goods, services, or money for something exchanged
2. the monetary worth of something
3. relative worth, utility, or importance
4. a numerical quantity that is assigned or is determined by calculation or measurement
5. something (as a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

- Value includes patient preferences, quality, equity, efficiency and product acceptability among a wide range of stakeholders.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence

- The value of a treatment is based on scientific value judgments, including a clinical evaluation and an economic evaluation, and social value judgments, including considerations of efficiency and effectiveness

Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)

- the economic value of a drug took into account its comparative cost effectiveness, its comparative health gain, its affordability, the financial implications for the government budget, the severity of the condition treated, the presence of effective alternatives, the drug's ability to target those likely to benefit most, and its ability to address government health priorities.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

- The value of new and better medicine stems not only from the improved treatment of disease but also from a reduction in other health care costs, increased productivity, and better quality of life

Descriptions of Value
Survey of NCPF Value Workshop Participants

Concepts and Domains

- Duration of life
- Quality of life
- Health status
- Cost
- Quality of care
- Equity
- Adverse effects
- Compassion
- Opportunity

Metrics and *Assessments*

- QALYs
- Cost/QALY
- Cost/Quality
- *Efficiency*
- *Effectiveness*
- *Necessity*
- *Reasonableness*
- *Affordability*

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“My doctor gave me 6 months to live, but when I couldn’t pay the bill he gave me 6 months more”

-Walter Matthau