

ACAAI/AAAAI/JCAAI Position Statement on Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Proposed Research Agenda

ACAAI/AAAAI Joint Task Force on Health Care Reform
April 2012

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, and the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology welcome the opportunity to comment on the PCORI draft research agenda. We applaud this effort and appreciate the invitation to engage in this important effort.

In regards to the five comparative clinical effectiveness research priorities identified, on behalf of the physicians, patients and other stakeholders of the Allergy, Asthma & Immunology specialty, we offer the following suggestions.

1. The first priority specifically refers to “comparing the effectiveness and safety of *alternative* prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options to see which ones work best for different people with a particular health problem.” We are concerned that this language is easily misconstrued or misinterpreted. We recommend that it be replaced with “evidence-based prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options” to more clearly express the intent of this research priority.
2. The second priority focus on improving healthcare systems is insufficient without reference to the critical role in delivery of optimal patient care provided by specialists. The priority statement should specifically include a reference to access to specialty care. In expounding upon the priority focus, topics specified include system-level approaches, utilization of allied health professionals, and system-level interventions for specific patient populations. We urge you to add as a fourth topic the study of care coordination and integration of specialty care for optimal patient outcomes.
3. In the fourth priority, in highlighting the need for addressing disparities, limited access to appropriate specialty care should be included among the barriers identified.
4. In regard to the priority of accelerating PCOR & methodological research, we suggest adding to the list of future investments building on and implementing findings of existing research strategies in which improved patient outcomes have already been documented.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to the draft research agenda. We look forward to continuing to engage in this conversation on behalf of the physicians, patients and other stakeholders affected by allergy, asthma and immunology.

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