



American Academy of Physician Associates

Evaluating the Capacity for Physician Associates' Dissemination of Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR)

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Objective: Establish a baseline for PAs' level of awareness of PCORI, PCOR, and CER.

Background

The [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\)](#) is the leading funder of patient-centered CER in the United States. PCORI helps people make informed healthcare decisions, and improves healthcare delivery and outcomes, by producing and promoting high-integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers, and the broader healthcare community.

CER research answers patient-centered questions and helps clinicians address their public health priorities. Patients are integral in the design of PCOR and CER studies. PCOR and CER can be used to identify specific interventions and actions that have been scientifically assessed on whether they effect the desired change. [PCORI implementation projects](#) promote the use of findings from PCORI-funded studies in real-world healthcare and other settings. These projects build toward broad use of evidence to inform healthcare decisions.

Study Design

A Mixed Methods Cross-Sectional Study

Quantitative
When: February 2023
Who: 3,646 PAs saw the invitation → 1,977 indicated their interest → 1,217 completed the informed consent → 760 started the survey
Response Rate: 20.8%
Margin of Error: +/- 3.55%
Questions: Derived from 2012 PCORI survey of PAs and NPs, new questions on understanding and use of CER and PCOR, topics and resources of interest

Qualitative
When: April 2023
Who: 11 PAs
How: 3 virtual focus groups with different participants at each
Purpose: Delve into the survey findings in more detail and determine tailored strategies for facilitating the use of PCOR findings in health as well as the implementation of the strategies

IRB: Reviewed by SterlingIRB and determined to be exempt.


Findings

Comparative effectiveness research (CER) is research comparing the effectiveness and safety of preventive, diagnostic, and treatment options to produce evidence that is useful for making informed decisions in real-world clinical settings. CER is considered to be **patient-centered** if it answers questions that help patients make the best decisions.

Many PAs lack awareness of PCORI and of the terms PCOR and CER, but are aware of the importance of PCOR and CER and the use of research to inform clinical practice and ensure the best outcomes for patients.


AWARENESS AND USE

PAs lack awareness of PCOR and CER terminology but are using the tenets of them in their clinical practice.

 **81%** were not familiar with “comparative effectiveness research” and **40%** were not familiar with “patient-centered outcomes research.”
47% to 60% were using CER in a variety of ways in their clinical practice within the past year.

IMPORTANCE

PAs understand the value of CER and PCOR for patient care.

 **96%** said that it is important that research helps patients make the best healthcare decisions.
96% said that it is important that research answers questions that healthcare providers care about.

ENGAGE

PAs understand the importance of healthcare providers being part of research and are interested in joining a research team.

 **88%** agreed that clinicians and **81%** agreed that patients on teams can improve healthcare.
58% were interested in joining a research team in the future.

AAPA has curated resources and research from PCORI on aapa.org.

Use this QR code to access free category 1 CME to learn more about [Using Patient-Centered Outcomes Research in Practice: Building Capacity for PA Dissemination](#).

This interactive activity will introduce Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) and Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) and describe tailored strategies for incorporating research findings into clinical decision-making.

