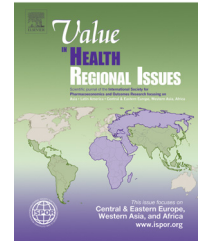




ELSEVIER

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/vhri

EDITORIAL

High-Quality, Scientific Rigor, and Diversity: *Value in Health Regional Issues* Is Getting Its Impact



Value in Health Regional Issues (ViHRI) focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, Western Asia, and Africa (CEEWAA) is now entering its fourth year and it is our pleasure to introduce its third volume. Our journal, which also includes annual volumes focusing on studies performed in Latin America and Asia, is steadily developing with increased quality, scientific rigor, and geographic diversity. The subject areas cover not only traditional pharmacoeconomics (i.e., economic analyses) and outcomes research (i.e., patient preferences and health-related quality of life) but also health policy reviews and analyses pertaining to major topics of concern to most health care systems. Within the last couple of years, we have noticed an increase in the number and quality of submitted manuscripts. As of February 2015, we received 45 manuscript submissions in total, of which 13 have been accepted, 18 rejected, and the remaining were still under editorial review as of September 2015.

An evidence for the rapid dissemination of articles published in ViHRI could be found in the increasing number of citations by other scholars, as well as the number of page views (increasing from a monthly average of 1026 in 2013 to an average of 2261 in 2015) and full-text downloads (increasing from a monthly average of 572 in 2013 to an average of 1634 in 2015).

To promote quality research, originality, and contribution to health care decision making, the Board of Directors of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) decided in 2014 to establish the ViHRI Excellent Article Award. This award will be given to the best article published in ViHRI from each region (Asia, Latin America, and CEEWAA) biennially to recognize the best article published from each of these regions. The first award will be presented during the ISPOR 18th Annual European Congress to Rok Hren for his article “Impact of the Pharma Economic Act on Diffusion of Innovation and Reduction of Costs in the Hungarian Prescription Drug Market (2007–2010)” published in ViHRI in 2013 [1].

The present volume includes economic studies pertaining to various health conditions such as patients with diabetes and hepatitis C virus [2,3]; health policy analyses of the impact of clinical guidelines [4], tendering prices of pharmaceuticals [5], and the Hungarian care managing organization [6]; as well as clinical outcomes reports [7,8]. Among the articles published in this volume, one article focusing on health-related quality-of-life assessment deserves special attention [9]. The three-level EuroQol five-dimensional questionnaire (EQ-5D-3L) is the most commonly used measure deriving health state utilities for use

in cost-effectiveness analyses presenting a cost per quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) incremental cost-effectiveness ratio and is applicable to a wide range of health conditions and treatments [10]. The new five-level version of the EQ-5D (EQ-5D-5L) has been recently developed by the EuroQol Group and increased the measurement reliability and sensitivity while maintaining its feasibility [11,12]. Previously in this journal, Golicki et al. [13] reported on an interim EQ-5D-5L value set for Poland, which is considered the first crosswalk value set in Central and Eastern Europe. This report was part of a larger study coordinated by the EuroQol Group to develop a “crosswalk” between the EQ-5D-3L value sets and the new EQ-5D-5L descriptive system [12]. Although evidence on the health-related quality of life of patients is increasingly being requested by payers in the Middle East, the availability of EQ-5D-5L value sets is limited. The article by Papadimitropoulos et al. [9] published in this volume reports on a feasibility study to elicit EQ-5D-5L values from a general public sample in the United Arab Emirates.

We hope that you enjoy reading articles published in this volume, and we also encourage scholars from ISPOR’s CEEWAA countries to submit their research findings to ViHRI. Our article-based publication policy encourages authors to submit manuscripts throughout the year and ensures that articles are published online and available soon after their acceptance for publication.

Acknowledgments

We thank Malgorzata Juszczak-Punwaney from ISPOR for her editorial support and Terry Materese from Elsevier, the journal’s publisher, for providing the journal’s metrics.

Dan Greenberg, PhD

Faculty of Health Sciences and The Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, Department of Health Systems Management, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Imre Boncz, MD, MSc, PhD, Habil

Faculty of Health Sciences, Institute for Health Insurance, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

Mohamed Izham B. Mohamed Ibrahim, PhD
College of Pharmacy, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

2212-1099/\$36.00 – see front matter Copyright © 2015,
International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes
Research (ISPOR). Published by Elsevier Inc.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vhri.2015.10.002>

REFERENCES

- [1] Hren R. Impact of the Pharma Economic Act on Diffusion of Innovation and Reduction of Costs in the Hungarian Prescription Drug Market (2007–2010). *Value Health Regional* 2013;2:290–9.
- [2] Base O, Altinbas A, Baser E, Karyburyo MF. Economic burden and complications of treated and untreated hepatitis C virus patients in Turkey. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:42–8.
- [3] Quaye EA, Amporful EO, Akweongo P, Aikins MK. Analysis of the financial cost of diabetes mellitus in four Cocoa clinics of Ghana. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:49–53.
- [4] Nutman A, Chodick G, Shalev V. The potential effects of implementing the 2013 ACC/AHA cholesterol guidelines on the use of statins in a large health maintenance organization in Israel. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:22–6.
- [5] Petrou P, Talis MA. Factors associated with tendering prices of medicines in Cyprus. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:67–73.
- [6] Boncz I, Evetovits T, Dózsa C, et al. The Hungarian Care Managing Organization Pilot Program. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:27–33.
- [7] Osenenko KM, Szabo SM, Qatami L, et al. Patterns of care and treatment target success among persons with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Dubai: a retrospective cohort study. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C: 87–93.
- [8] Chiazor EI, Evans M, van Woerden H, Oparah AC. A systematic review of community pharmacists' interventions in reducing major risk factors for cardiovascular disease. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:9–21.
- [9] Papadimitropoulos EA, Elbarazi F, Blair I, et al. An investigation of the feasibility and cultural appropriateness of stated preference methods to generate EQ-5D-5L values in the United Arab Emirates. *Value Health Regional* 2015;7C:34–41.
- [10] Dakin H. Review of studies mapping from quality of life or clinical measures to EQ-5D: an online database. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* 2013;11:151.
- [11] Herdman M, Gudex C, Lloyd A, et al. Development and preliminary testing of the new five-level version of EQ-5D (EQ-5D-5L). *Qual Life Res* 2011;20:1727–36.
- [12] EQ-5D-5L User guide basic information on how to use the EQ-5D-5L instrument. Available from: http://www.euroqol.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Documenten/PDF/Folders_Flyers/EQ-5D-5L_UserGuide_2015.pdf. [Accessed October 6, 2015].
- [13] Golicki D, Niewada M, van Hout B, et al. Interim EQ-5D-5L value set for Poland: first crosswalk value set in Central and Eastern Europe. *Value Health Regional* 2014;4C:19–23.