

GetReal and the RWE Navigator

Heather Stegenga, Senior analyst, NICE

EFSPi/PS meeting, 28th November 2017

Outline

- Background / context
- IMI GetReal
- RWE Navigator

Regulators

HTAs/payers

E.g.:



E.g.:



Key decision criteria:

Quality, safety & clinical efficacy

Cost & clinical effectiveness

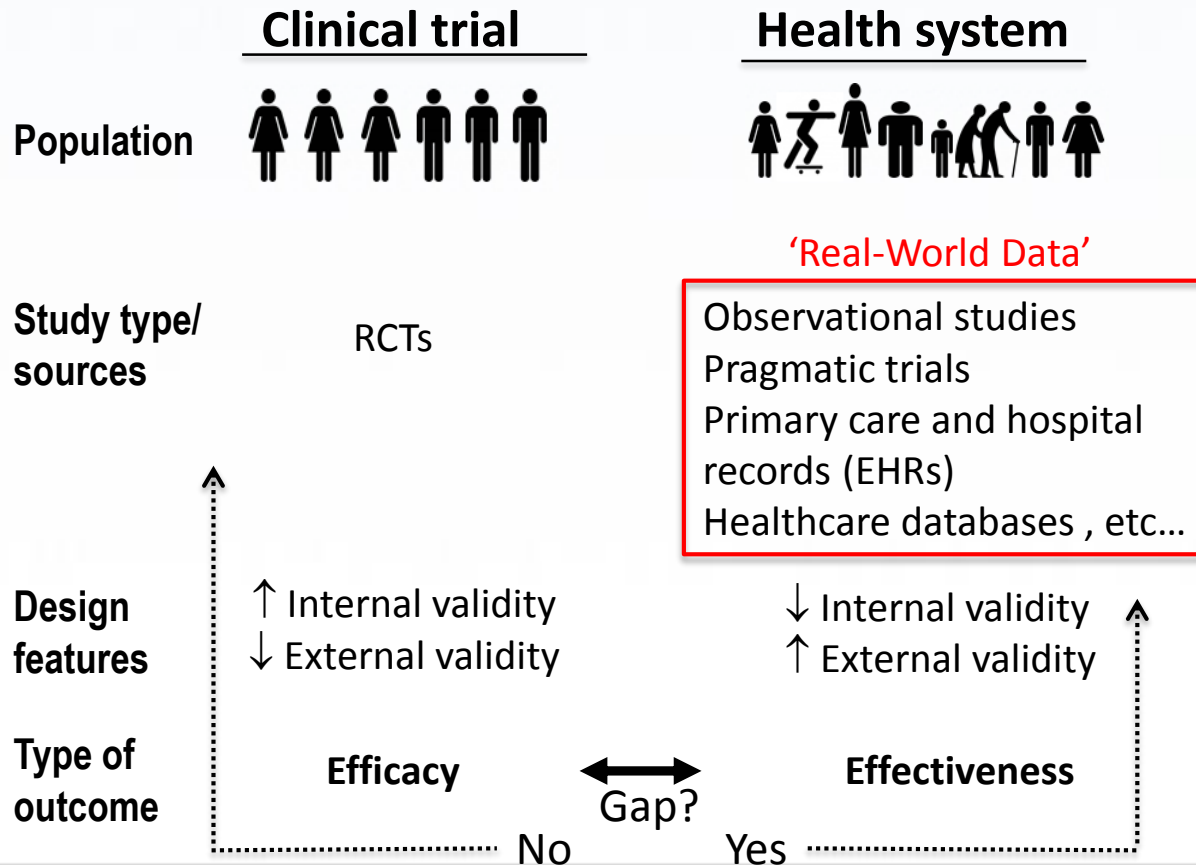
Scope:

Randomised Controlled trials

Data fit for purpose?



Routine clinical practice



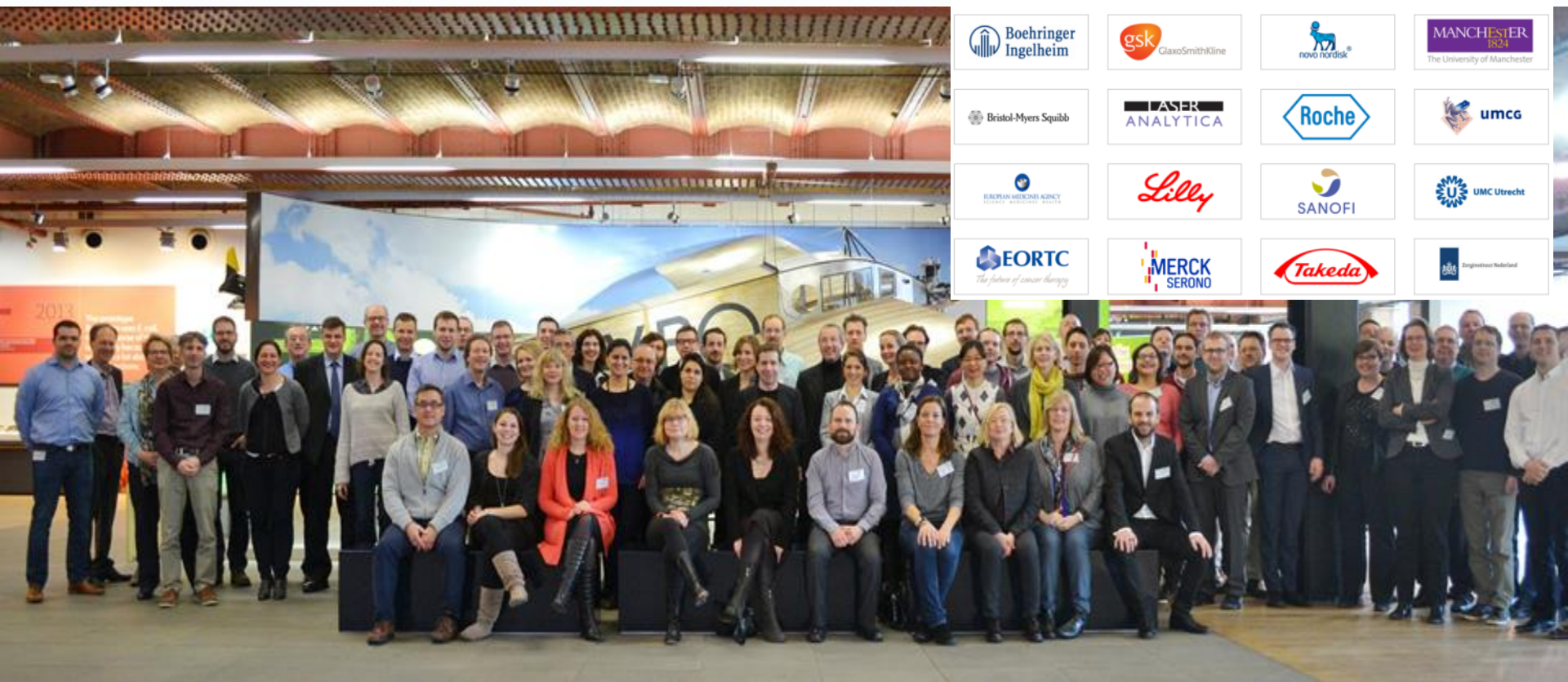
Environment

- Increasing strength and demands of **HTA/payers**
- Pressures for **earlier access** to new medicines of value
- Possibility of more flexible reimbursement and **access arrangements**
- **Rare disease** populations more prominent, hard to fit into trial paradigm
- Willingness of regulators to **engage**

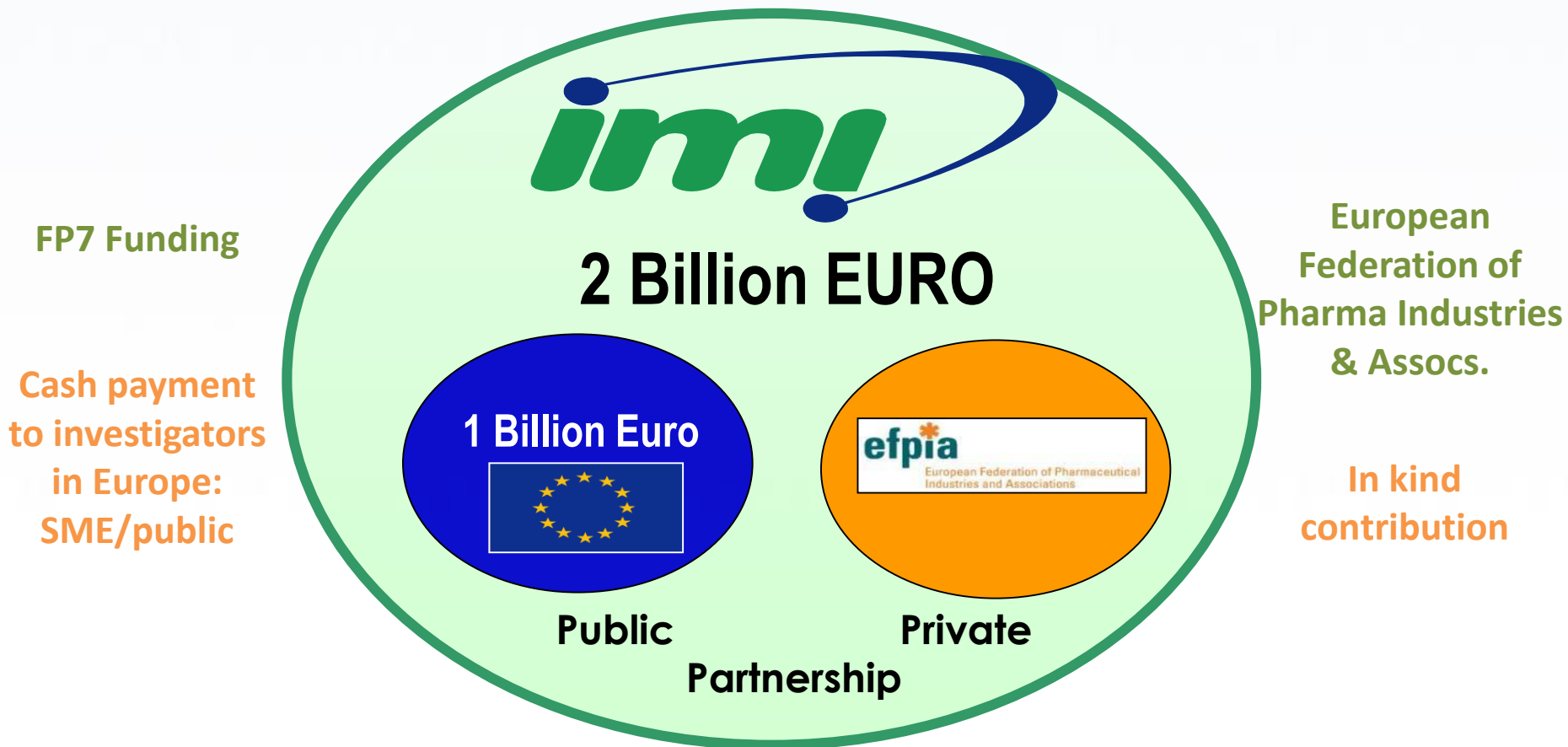
Data and methods

- Recognition that data arriving at HTA are **sub-optimal**, especially the key data on relative effectiveness
- Growing **availability** (at least in principle) of RWD
- **New methods** to synthesize data and adjust for bias
- **IT infrastructure**: new possibilities for data collection and integration

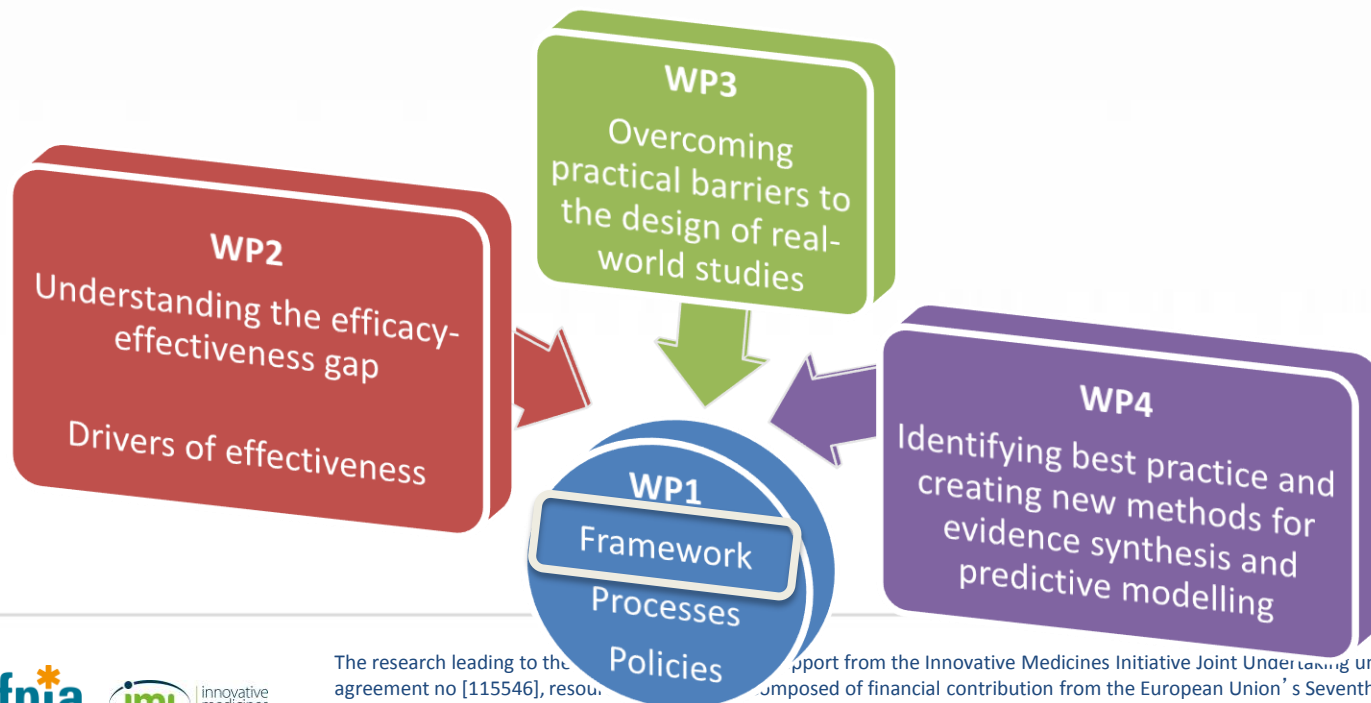
Three Years of a *Real* Public Private Partnership



Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)



- GetReal aimed to consider how robust new methods of RWE collection and synthesis could be adopted earlier in pharmaceutical R&D and the healthcare decision making process.



Using RWD is already part of evidence planning within pharma...

+ Real-Life Data in
Drug Development

Development

Analyse RWD to assess effectiveness of existing medicines

Highlight shortcomings in existing treatments using RWE

Incorporate RWD to estimate cost-effectiveness using economic models

File and launch

Include evidence on use and effectiveness of existing medicines in registration package

Conduct network meta-analysis to estimate relative efficacy (or effectiveness) of new medicine

Post-marketing

Assess relative effectiveness of our new medicine in claims and EMR database analyses

Synthesize studies on relative effectiveness vs competitor medicines

...but evidence generation is evolving and GetReal is a key contributor – and resource

+ Real-Life Data in Drug Development

Development

File and launch

Post-marketing

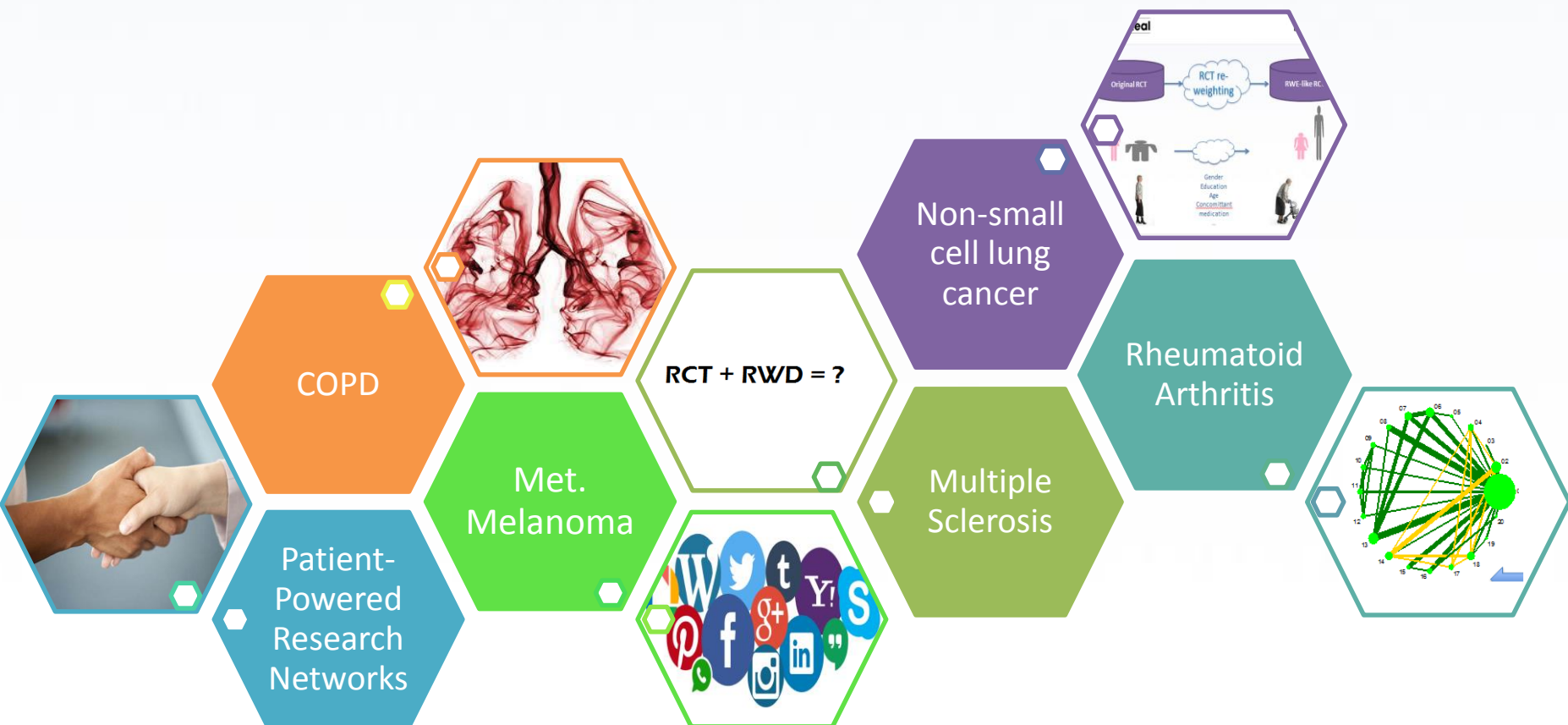
- Plan early – consider adaptive pathways
- Use historical cohorts to provide context for single arm clinical studies
- Greater use of analytics to help design clinical trials
- Include trial designs that are more “pragmatic”
- Consider novel techniques to simulate relative effectiveness
- Seek greater dialogue with regulators & HTA agencies

<https://www.imi-getreal.eu/>



Objectives

- Shared understanding of the technical and process issues from each perspective
- Exploration of novel methodological solutions
- Compilation of best-practice recommendations
- Future research agenda
- Collaboration and trust





Original research

- Drivers of effectiveness
- Analytical methods
- Prediction models
- Methodological guidance
- Social media
- Patient-powered research networks (PPRNs)



Methods

- Detection of bias
- Adjustment of bias
- Aggregate RWD in NMAs
- Individual patient data in NMAs



Tools

- Software
- Checklists & templates
- Design options for pragmatic clinical trials



Summaries

- Literature reviews
- Study types
- Sources of data
- Methods



Case studies

- Retrospective analyses of relative effectiveness issues
- Disease area specific issues
- Stakeholder views

**Illustrative examples – not a complete list of GetReal outputs*

Commentary

Received 28 February 2016, Accepted 06 March 2016
 (wileyonlinelibrary.com) DOI: 10.1002/jrsm.1207

Research Synthesis Methods

GetReal: from relative effect to absolute effect
 Matthias Egger,^{a,b,*} Kai...

Tutorial

Received 21 November 2014, Revised 21 December 2015, Accepted 28 December 2015
 Published online in Wiley Online Library

Research Synthesis Methods

Stats in Nov '16

36 peer-reviewed manuscripts

13 deliverable reports

62+ conference presentations

Kalkman et al. *Trials* (2016) 17:419
 DOI 10.1186/s13063-016-1546-3

RESEARCH

Stakeholders' views on the challenges of pragmatic clinical trials in pharmaceutical development

Shona Kalkman¹, Ghislaine J. M. W. van der Wal², Mira G. P. Zuidgeest², Johannes J. M. van Erp³, Consortium

BMC Medical Research Methodology

Open Access

Randomized Controlled Trials: efficient but biased? Evaluate the impact of the randomised controlled trial design

Pieter Van Staa^{1,2}

www.sciencedirect.com
 ScienceDirect

ADDIS: a decision support system for evidence-based medicine

Gert van Valkenhoef^{a,b}, Tommi Tervonen^{c,*}, Tijs Zwinkels^b, Bert de Brock^b, Hans Hillege^a

^aDepartment of Epidemiology, University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands
^bFaculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
^cEconometric Institute, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

ELSEVIER journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jval

Comparative Effectiveness Research/Health Technology Assessment (HTA) The "Efficacy-Effectiveness Gap": Historical Background and Current Conceptualization

Clementine Nordon, MD PhD^{1,*}, Helene Karcher, PhD², Rolf H.H. Groenwold, PhD³, Mikkel Zöllner Ankarfeldt, PhD⁴, Franz Pichler, PhD⁵, Helene Chevrou-Severac, PhD⁶, Michel Rossignol, MD, PhD⁷, Adeline Abbe, MSc⁸, Lucien Abenhaim, MD, PhD⁹, on behalf of the GetReal consortium

¹LASER Research, Paris, France; ²LASER Analytica, London, UK; ³Julius Centre for Health Sciences and Primary Care, University Medical Centre Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands; ⁴Nouvo Nordisk A/S, Soborg, Denmark; ⁵Eli Lilly and Company, Melrose Park, Australia; ⁶Takeda Pharmaceuticals International, Glattbrugg-Opfikon, Switzerland; ⁷Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; ⁸Sanofi R&D, Chilly Mazarin, France



The research leading to these results has received support from the European Union Horizon Programme (FP7/2007-2013) and EFPIA companies through the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) consortium.
www.imi.europa.eu

Name of trial
PRAGMACE-1 ILLUMINATE THE CITY

Legend:

- Most optimal
- Opportunity for improvement
- More opportunity for improvement
- No implication

Trial information

Options

Report

Get Real RWE Navigator

BETA This website is in BETA. This means we're testing it to see how usable the site is and if users are able to find the information they are looking for. Your feedback will help us to improve it.

Navigation: About, Step 1: Clarify the issues, Step 2: Find RWE options, Use RWE, Case studies, Background, Glossary, Directory of resources

Putting real-world healthcare data to work

Real-world evidence (RWE) Navigator

The Real-world evidence (RWE) Navigator:

- Is an educational resource helping users to find out more about the potential issues in demonstrating relative effectiveness of new medicines (referred to as effectiveness issues) support the development of medicines.
- Provides guidance guiding users to specific types of analyses or study designs using RWE to support the development of medicines.
- Is a directory of resources, a comprehensive resource on the use of RWE in medicines, signposting to outputs from the GetReal projects and other authoritative sources of information on RWE.

Step 1: Clarify the issues

This section includes a list of tasks that you can use to gain a greater understanding of the potential issues for effectiveness challenges in demonstrating relative effectiveness for a medicine.

Step 2: Find RWE options

This function provides different study designs or analytical techniques that could be considered to address the effectiveness challenge.

Directory of resources

Access to resources, such as information on RWE, sources including RWE, using RWE, and other real work.

addis.drugis.org
Aggregate Data Drug Information System

Disclaimer: this is beta software.

Why should I generate evidence for effectiveness?

QUESTION
Is there a compelling need to generate evidence of effectiveness, over and above the evidence plan for registration?

TASKS

- Identify a potential efficacy/effectiveness gap and the drivers of effectiveness
- Assess the consequences of not addressing drivers of effectiveness in the development plan

METHODS TO EXPLORE ISSUES

- Review of HTA decisions
- Literature review
- Experts' interviews
- Analysis of available data
- Collect Patient insights
- Seek early scientific advice

Sign In with Google

The information we retrieve from Google is only used to ensure that you continue to have access to the information you need.

The Toolbox
Methods to generate evidence on Effectiveness before launch
On the behalf of GetReal WP2

Review of 68 pre and post-authorization dossiers, submitted to the French HTA body (HAS) between 2011 and 2014: the lack of evidence on effectiveness was found to raise specific concerns, when uncertainty rested on:

- The actual compliance with the "Terms of Use" and prescription requirements (e.g., identification and description of the population and prescribers, duration and dosage of treatment, adherence)
- The impact on "morbidity/mortality"

TOOLS TO IDENTIFY DRIVERS OF EFFECTIVENESS

Structured Literature Reviews can retrieve studies

- which explored a "gap" and provide explanations for this gap;
- which explored effect-modification on the association between exposure to drug and outcome;
- which explored the efficacy of drugs (RCTs) vs. the effectiveness of drugs (observational studies)

Interviews of experts with an extensive clinical experience in the therapeutic field of interest may be useful to

- generate hypothesis on potential drivers of effectiveness
- or after a literature review, to identify DoE not retrieved by the review and/or weigh the results of literature review with a clinical perspective

Data Analyses may focus on the exploration of

- a modification of drug's effect by potential DoE (related to patient's characteristics, actual use of the drug or characteristics of the healthcare system), using simple statistics (sub-group comparison)
- statistical interaction between the drug and potential DoE, in regression models
- a gap between drugs' effect estimates in RCTs and drugs' effect estimates in observational studies; a comparison of (pooled) results across study types may approximate an efficacy-effectiveness gap and the comparison of patients characteristics may help identifying DoE

IF YES

*Illustrative examples – not a complete list



The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union under grant agreement no [115517000] under grant agreement no [115517000] Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no [115517000] www.imi.europa.eu

under grant agreement no [115517000] under grant agreement no [115517000] Framework

The drug development landscape

LU1

- > describe the drug development (value) chain
- > describe the perspectives of various stakeholders on this chain
- > recognize the main terminology used in this research area & explain the difference between efficacy and effectiveness
- > understand what is meant by RWE
- > understand the main issues in moving RWE generation to a pre-launch environment

Real World Evidence Generation

LU2

- > name which main study designs exist to generate RWE and explain key characteristics
- > explain the importance of knowing which are the drivers of effectiveness in real life
- > explain which are the main study design choices influencing whether you answer a relative effectiveness or an efficacy question
- > recognize the main operational challenges involved in pragmatic trials on drug treatment effectiveness
- > explain the interplay between design choices in a pragmatic trial, operational feasibility and the methodological soundness of the trial

Real World Evidence Synthesis

LU3

- > explain the concept and the need for evidence synthesis of drug treatment effects
- > describe different sources of evidence that can be synthesized
- > describe current methods in evidence synthesis and in predicting relative effectiveness of drugs (both incorporating RWD) and understand their key differences
- > recognize the main challenges and potential limitations of these current methods in evidence synthesis
- > retrieve the key information from publications of real world evidence synthesis
- > discuss and evaluate ways how to integrate real world data into drug development and decision-making

Decision making and weighting evidence

LU4

- > describe the existing frameworks for regulatory/HTA decision-making within clinical development timelines, with a focus on the influence of different study designs on the various decisions to be made
- > discuss new decision models to the generation of evidence over time (for example adaptive licensing/managed market entry)
- > consider how alternative study design options, and their associated pros and cons, fit into these decision models
- > explain how MCDA can be applied to the benefit-risk assessment of a medicinal product

Changing drug development timelines & generating /evaluating RWD in your own work place

LU5

- > describe the role, perspectives and requirements of key decision makers
- > identify trade-offs between meeting the needs of different decision makers: Pharma R&D, regulatory agencies, reimbursement agencies
- > explain the potential for different drug development programmes, focusing in particular on those which make more use of real world data (RWD)
- > describe the different ways in which RWD can be used in development programmes
- > explain how to evaluate and prioritise development programmes
- > explain the process of parallel Scientific Advice and making submissions to decision-makers

Putting real-world healthcare data to work

Real-world evidence (RWE) Navigator

The Real-world evidence (RWE) Navigator:

- **Is an educational resource:** helping users to find out more about the potential issues in demonstrating relative effectiveness of new medicines (referred to as 'effectiveness issues').
- **Provides guidance:** guiding users to specific types of analyses or study designs using RWE to support the development of medicines.
- **Is a directory of resources:** a comprehensive resource on the use of RWE in medicines, signposting to outputs from the GetReal projects and other authoritative sources of information on RWE.

The RWE Navigator has been designed for a wide variety of users. For example, pharmaceutical companies may find it useful to increase awareness about the use of RWE among their staff members, or patients may use it to understand concepts related to RWE and better understand challenges of using or generating RWE.

Understanding GetReal and the RWE Navigator



Step 1: Clarify the issues

Step 2: Find RWE options

Directory of resources

Main purposes of the RWE Navigator

- An **educational resource** to find out more about the potential issues in demonstrating relative effectiveness of new medicines ('effectiveness challenges').

Step 1
Clarify the Issues

- A **guide** to specific types of analyses or study designs using RWE to support development of medicines.

Step 2
Find the RWE Options

- A comprehensive **directory of resources** on the use of RWE in medicines, signposting to GetReal outputs and other authoritative sources.

Directory of
Resources

Who is it for ?

Clinicians

Patients

**HTA agencies
and payers**

**Shared platform for
understanding and
collaboration**

Regulators

Researchers

**Pharmaceutical
companies**

Sources of
existing RWD

Generate RWE
(study designs)

Summarise
and synthesise
evidence

Assure quality
and credibility
of RWD/RWE

Model
effectiveness
in real world
setting

Adjust for bias
in non-
randomised
/obs studies

Governance of
RWD

Example key content categories



Sources of existing RWD

Sources of real-world data

Real-world data (RWD) is an overarching term for data on the effects of health interventions (such as benefits, risks or resource use) that are not collected in the context of conventional randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

While definitions vary, RWD tends to be structured, in that it has 'data models' with data residing in a fixed field, for example in databases and spreadsheets. RWD has more in common with epidemiological data than big data, which involves large or complex unstructured data sets, such as data from social media. However, the term big data is sometimes used more broadly, also referring to more structured RWD.

RWD can be collected both prospectively and retrospectively. Data collected may include, but are not limited to, clinical outcomes and health-related quality of life.

Overview of RWD sources

RWD can be obtained from experimental studies and observational studies. The different study designs that can provide RWD are listed below.

Additional sources of RWD that may provide data from unstructured studies are listed below.

Table. RWD from existing sources

Patient registries	Patient registries collect, analyse, and disseminate observational data on a group of patients with specific characteristics in common.
Healthcare databases including electronic health records	Healthcare databases, such as electronic health records (EHRs), are systems into which healthcare providers enter routine clinical and laboratory data during usual practice. Healthcare databases can be used in 'real-world' (observational) studies to assess the benefits and risks, as well as the relative effectiveness, of different medical treatments.
Pharmacy and health insurance databases	Pharmacy and health insurance databases are types of healthcare database systems that are set up by pharmacists or health insurers for billing and other healthcare administration and management, such as monitoring of healthcare service use. Data collected in these systems can also be used in medical research to assess the effectiveness of healthcare interventions in 'real world' observational studies.
	Social media are internet-based websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. They can provide patient perspectives on health topics such as adverse events, reasons for changing treatments and non-adherence, and quality of life.
	Patient-powered research networks (PPRNs) are online platforms run by patients to collect and organise health and clinical data.

Related links

- [Generating RWE including different study designs](#)
- [Summary of GetReal glossary of terms and definitions](#)

Table. RWD from existing sources

Patient registries	Patient registries are organised systems that are used to prospectively collect, analyse, and disseminate observational data on a group of patients with specific characteristics in common. Read more
Healthcare databases including electronic health records	Healthcare databases, such as electronic health records (EHRs), are systems into which healthcare providers enter routine clinical and laboratory data during usual practice. Healthcare databases can be used in 'real-world' (observational) studies to assess the benefits and risks, as well as the relative effectiveness, of different medical treatments. Read more
Pharmacy and health insurance databases	Pharmacy and health insurance databases are types of healthcare database systems that are set up by pharmacists or health insurers for billing and other healthcare administration and management, such as monitoring of healthcare service use. Data collected in these systems can also be used in medical research to assess the effectiveness of healthcare interventions in 'real world' observational studies. Read more
Social media	Social media are internet-based websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. They can provide patient perspectives on health topics such as adverse events, reasons for changing treatments and non-adherence, and quality of life. Read more
Patient-powered research networks	Patient-powered research networks (PPRNs) are online platforms run by patients to collect and organise health and clinical data. Read more



Generate RWE (study designs)

Generate real-world evidence

Conventional randomised controlled trials (RCTs) alone may not provide sufficient evidence of relative effectiveness to support reimbursement decision-making. An estimation of how well a medicine may work in the real world can be estimated from analyses of the existing RCTs. However, it may be possible to generate 'earlier' estimates of the relative effectiveness of the new medicine of interest in time to inform reimbursement decision-making by analysing existing real-world data sources or by conducting new studies to generate real-world evidence (RWE). For more information about the limitations of RCTs to estimate relative effectiveness see [here](#) and [here](#), for an overview of methods for predicting effectiveness in the real world using RCT data see [here](#), and for more information about real-world data sources see [here](#).

Some experimental and observational study designs that could provide RWE are summarised below. While some study designs may provide evidence on relative effectiveness, some 'real-world' epidemiological observational studies may not be able to provide evidence of relative effectiveness. However, they may be useful to define the disease area and understand the natural disease history. They may provide information about a relevant comparator if there is no comparative data.

Since the quality and credibility of a study may have a significant impact on the reported results of a study and its interpretation, it is crucial to assess each study individually, whether or not it includes an element of randomisation. For more information about assuring quality and credibility of RWE see [here](#).

Table. Study designs that may provide RWE

Experimental study designs	
Pragmatic RCT	A pragmatic trial aims to measure the relative effectiveness of treatments in real-world clinical practice. It combines the strengths of RCTs with evidence of the added value of a treatment in routine clinical practice. Read more
Population enrichment RCT	A population enrichment RCT includes patients typically excluded from RCTs combined with predictive modelling techniques to better predict relative effectiveness in a real-world setting. Read more
Cohort multiple RCT (cmRCT) (also known as or trials within cohorts)	cmRCTs are a type of pragmatic RCT that use a large number of patients as a source of participants for multiple RCTs to generate a more generalisable study sample. Read more

- ### Related links
- RWD sources
 - Pragmatic trials
 - Overview of methods for predicting outcomes to bridge the efficacy-effectiveness gap
 - Assuring quality and credibility of RWE

Comprehensive cohort study (CCS)	CCS is a type of pragmatic RCT that includes participants who do not consent to be randomised to the treatment group. This reduces selection bias and improves generalisability. Read more
Cluster RCT	Cluster RCTs randomise groups or clusters rather than individual participants as in traditional RCTs. Read more
Non-randomised controlled trial	Any experimental study allocating participants to different treatments using a method other than randomisation, such as clinician or patient preference.
Observational study designs	
Cohort	A cohort study follows a group of individuals over a period of time to consider associations between interventions received and outcomes.
Case-control	A study that examines associations between outcomes and prior exposures by comparing people with an outcome of interest to those without the outcome. These are not often used for interventions.
Cross-sectional	In a cross-sectional study, data are collected from a population or a representative subset of a population at one specific point of time or over a short period to examine associations between the outcomes and exposure to interventions.
Controlled before-and-after	Similar to a case series, in which observations are recorded on a series of individuals before and after receiving an intervention, but this study design includes a control group.



Summarise and synthesise evidence

RWE Navigator / Use real-world data

Summarise and synthesise real-world evidence

Evidence synthesis

Evidence synthesis is the process of retrieving, evaluating and summarising the findings of all relevant studies on a certain subject area. Ideally, a systematic review is conducted to identify all the relevant available studies to support the evidence synthesis. For more information about systematic reviewing, see the [Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions](#). (a description of a systematic literature review in the context of exploring and identifying drivers of effectiveness is found [here](#)).

Meta-analyses may then be used to combine the estimates from the individual studies identified.

Network meta-analysis (NMA) is an extension of the standard, pairwise meta-analysis, and can be used to synthesise results from studies that compare multiple competing interventions for the same condition.

For more information about evidence synthesis and network meta-analysis see [here](#).

Including RWD in evidence synthesis

Meta-analysis and NMA are usually limited to the synthesis of evidence from randomised controlled trials (RCTs) because they are considered to be the most reliable source of information on relative treatment effects. However, there is a growing interest in the medical community in incorporating evidence from non-randomised studies (NRSs), patient registries and other real-world data (RWD).

This strategy is particularly appealing when there are few RCTs to answer a specific research question. It may also be useful when the available RCTs do not align with the target population, prescription strategies and/or primary outcomes of the research question (i.e. when there is an efficacy-effectiveness gap, see a definition [here](#)).

Including RWD may be also helpful to connect disconnected networks of interventions (i.e. if trials comparing interventions are not available) or to supplement existing RCT evidence when the results are conflicting or evidence is limited.

For more information about incorporating RWD into an NMA see [here](#).

Related links

- [Overview of evidence synthesis and NMA](#)
- [Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions](#)
- [Conducting a literature review to explore and identify drivers of effectiveness](#)



Assure quality and credibility of RWD/RWE

RWE Navigator / Use real-world data / Assure quality and credibility of RWE

Assure quality and credibility of RWE

The defining feature of a randomised controlled trial (RCT), the random assignment of participants to different treatment groups, can ensure that characteristics of participants are similar in the two groups being compared, when the trial is well conducted. This is most important when those characteristics also have a direct impact on the effect of a medicine, such as the severity of the disease or the presence of so-called confounding variables or treatment effect modifiers). While there are non-randomised methods that are sometimes used to ensure equal distribution of these factors between treatment groups (such as matching), random allocation is particularly important as there are many characteristics that influence a treatment effect that are not known.

Although other factors may influence the **internal validity** of a study, including things like adherence to treatment protocols and the measurement of outcomes, the internal validity of a well-conducted RCTs is likely to be high, providing more reliable estimates of a medicine's effect. However, traditional RCTs are less likely to reflect the real world in the population being studied, the way that interventions are administered or in other factors (i.e. they may have low **external validity**).

The use of data collected outside RCTs (real-world data [RWD]) may have better external validity. However, the potential lack of internal validity and the potential for bias and uncertainty regarding the robustness of the data when used as a source of evidence for effectiveness.

Checklists for quality assessment

One of the key concerns about the use of evidence collected outside RCTs is the quality of studies used.

In the field of evidence-based medicine, checklists are often used to assess the quality of different study designs, aiming to ensure consistency across quality assessors. A number of existing checklists focus on methodological quality, but some also incorporate broader elements such as those relevant to cost-effectiveness analyses considered by payers or health technology assessment agencies.

A NICE Decision Support Unit technical support document ([Faria et al 2015](#)) has been produced 'to help improve the quality of analysis, reporting, critical appraisal and interpretation of estimates of treatment effect from non-RCT studies'. This document includes a review and assessment of a number of existing checklists for quality assessment of the analysis of non-randomised studies.

The table below includes a list of commonly used checklists, organised by study design, some of which were reviewed by [Faria et al 2015](#).

Table: Commonly used quality checklists by study design

Study design ^a	Quality checklists
Randomised controlled trials (RCTs)	Cochrane risk of bias tool CASP randomised controlled trial checklist
Non-randomised study designs, controlled cohort, controlled before-	<p>In the context of cost-effectiveness analyses:</p> ISPOR checklist for prospective observational studies^b ISPOR checklist for retrospective database studies^b Checklist for statistical methods to address selection bias in estimating incremental costs, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness (Kreif et al 2013)^b NICE DSU QuEENS checklist (for use on its own or to complement other checklists)



The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska Curie agreement no [115546], resource Programme (FP7/2007-2013) and Horizon Europe
www.imi.europa.eu

RWE Navigator / Use real-world data / Model effectiveness in the real world

Model effectiveness in the real world

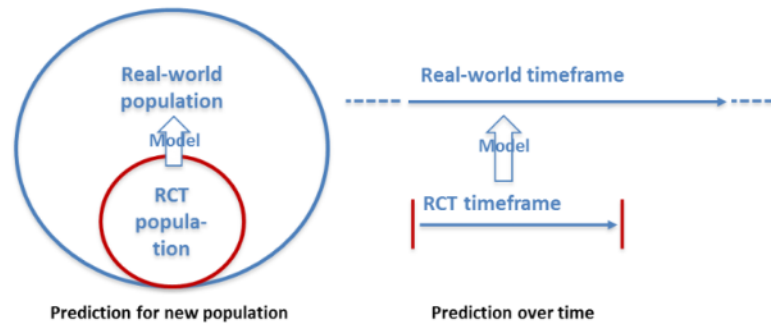
Modelling is commonly used to support decision-making by health technology assessment (HTA) agencies, particularly to predict treatment effects beyond the timeframe in the existing RCTs.

GetReal has examined two uses of modelling to address the potential gap between the efficacy of a treatment observed in RCTs and effectiveness in the real world:

- Extrapolating treatment effects to the long-term, using real-world data (RWD).
- Predicting effectiveness of treatments in a real-world population.

The figure below summarises how modelling can be used to extend RCT data over time or across populations.

Figure. Use of modelling to extend RCT data.



For more information on methods for predicting outcomes to bridge the efficacy-effectiveness gap, including a review of the existing literature and a summary of the approaches examined by GetReal see [here](#).

Related Links

- Overview of methods for predicting outcomes to bridge the efficacy-effectiveness gap
- Software for evidence synthesis or predictive modelling

Governance of RWD

RWE Navigator / Use real-world data / Governance of real-world data

Governance of real-world data

The increasing trend in collecting 'real-world' healthcare information has raised concerns about data privacy and the rules for using and protecting this data. Clearer policies are needed that allow data use but also protect the privacy of patients.

There are differences in the use and availability of health data across European countries, and in the practice and policies regarding access and use of data. In addition, data governance arrangements among OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries are at different stages of development. ([OECD review](#))

The OECD have identified eight key data governance mechanisms to support privacy and the protective use of data related to 'collection, linkage and analysis' of health data:

- coordinated development of high-value, privacy-protective health information systems (that promote monitoring and improvement of healthcare quality and system performance and research innovations for better healthcare and outcomes)
- legislation that permits privacy-protective data use
- open and transparent public communication
- accreditation or certification of health data processors
- transparent and fair project approval processes
- data de-identification practices that meet legal requirements and public expectations without compromising data use
- data security practices that meet legal requirements and public expectations without compromising data use
- a process to continually assess and renew the data governance framework as new data and new risks emerge.

The Office for Health Economics (OHE) in the UK conducted a review of data governance arrangements in a number of countries. It recommended that policies need to be clearer and also that a balance needs to be struck between allowing data to be used to advance research and protecting the privacy of patients whose data is collected.

Related links

- [OECD 2015 publication on health data governance](#)
- [Office for Health Economics 2015 review and recommendations](#)
- [Cole et al 2016 publication in Value in Health on data governance for real-world evidence](#)

RWE Navigator is...



an educational resource

a source of guidance

a directory of resources

a shared platform

NOT a decision-making/support tool

Does **NOT** replace formal scientific advice

Does **NOT** guarantee approval, access or funding

Methods tested still experimental

Putting real-world healthcare data to work

Real-world evidence (RWE) Navigator

The Real-world evidence (RWE) Navigator:

- **Is an educational resource:** helping users to find out more about the potential issues in demonstrating relative effectiveness of new medicines (referred to as 'effectiveness issues').
- **Provides guidance:** guiding users to specific types of analyses or study designs using RWE to support the development of medicines.
- **Is a directory of resources:** a comprehensive resource on the use of RWE in medicines, signposting to outputs from the GetReal projects and other authoritative sources of information on RWE.

The RWE Navigator has been designed for a wide variety of users. For example, pharmaceutical companies may find it useful to increase awareness about the use of RWE among their staff members, or patients may use it to understand concepts related to RWE and better understand challenges of using or generating RWE.

Understanding GetReal and the RWE Navigator




Step 1: Clarify the issues

Step 2: Find RWE options

Directory of resources

Scenario 1: Clinician interested in learning about patient powered research networks

About Step 1: Clarify the issues Step 2: Find RWE options Use RWD Case studies Background Glossary **Directory of resources**

Data sources 

Generate evidence

Summarise and synthesise evidence

Model effectiveness

Assure quality and credibility

Adjust for bias

Data governance

Software for evidence synthesis and modelling



Scenario 1: Clinician interested in learning about patient powered research networks

Navigation: About Step

Breadcrumb: RWE Navigator / Use real-world data / Sources of real-world data / Patient-powered research networks

Section Header: Patient-powered research networks

Text: Real-world data benefits, risks or trials (RCTs). While definition field, for example than big data, w However, the te RWD can be col Data collected n outcomes and h

Section Header: What is it?

Text: Patient-powered research networks (PPRNs) are online platforms run and developed by patients, patient partners (such as patient organisations and advocacy groups) and other stakeholders, including carers, clinicians and researchers. They are used to collect and organise health and clinical data focused on either a specific disease or multiple disease areas. The data can then be used in relative effectiveness research (to compare different medicines). PPRNs place a strong emphasis on collecting real-world data (RWD) and using patient-centred outcomes. They aim to better inform, and possibly accelerate, the decision-making process in the assessment of relative effectiveness.

Text: The key objectives of PPRNs are to:

- contribute RWD to relative effectiveness research
- increase patients' involvement in research and allow them to contribute to or oversee the research activities of their network.

Text: review of the usefulness of PPRNs in relative effectiveness research, see [here](#).

Section Header: Types of PPRNs

- PCORnet was set up by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) in the US; it has funded and supported approximately 30 PPRNs across multiple disease areas.
- PatientsLikeMe develops data-sharing partnerships to contribute health data on a wide range of disease areas, with the aim of the improving products, services and care for patients (see also [social media](#)).
- CureTogether promotes patient-driven research by sharing information on over 500 medical conditions. It focuses on patient-to-patient and patient-to-researcher communication on topics such as sensitive symptoms and which treatment works best for them (see also [social media](#)).
- The Accelerated Cure Project focuses on sharing information (biosamples and data from 3,000 patients) with researchers to accelerate research on multiple sclerosis.

Related links:

- Summary of IMS review of PPRNs in relative effectiveness research & survey of key stakeholders
- PCORnet
- PatientsLikeMe
- CureTogether
- The Accelerated Cure Project
- US Government Accountability Office review of PCORI
- Social media

Resources:

Annotations:

- Sections covering what it is, why it's useful, when it's suitable, limitations and stakeholder feedback
- Links to authoritative sources, GetReal deliverables, full-text publications

Page-Footer: Healthcare data including elec health records

Page-Footer: er grant framework



Scenario 2: pharmaceutical company preparing an evidence development plan for a new medicine

About Step 1: Clarify the issues Step 2: Find RWE options Use RWD Case studies Background Glossary



- How & why effectiveness differs from efficacy (the 'gap') and 'drivers of effectiveness'
- Planning questions to consider for each aspect of PICO (population, intervention, etc)
- Methods to explore the gap
- Examples



Scenario 2:
pharmaceutical company
looking for **options using**
RWE

About Step 1: Clarify the issues Step 2: Find RWE options Use RWD Case studies Background Glossary



Find potential options using
RWE to address the
identified issues



**Scenario 2:
pharmaceutical company
looking for options using
RWE**

RWE Navigator / Find a RWE Option

Find a RWE Option

Find different options for using real-world evidence (RWE) based on the issues for which RWE has been identified using this site. Often these issues arise when generating evidence of relationship between a medicine and a health outcome.

- Select the stage of development for your medicine (Early, Mid or Late)
- Choose a category of problem (Population, Scientific, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome, Study design)

You will find a list of corresponding RWE options for each issue you can select from. For each issue you can also select a decision-making perspective (pharmaceutical R&D, Regulators, HTA) is likely to find this issue relevant.

Click Read More to find out more about the RWE option.

Select a RWE option for more information and links to resources (including GetReal resources)

EARLY
Strategy: programme planning (end phase 2A/2B)

MID
operational: designing and executing studies (phase 2B/3)

Decision-making perspective

- Health technology assessment
[Read More →](#)
- Pharmaceutical research and development
[Read More →](#)
- Regulatory
[Read More →](#)

Select a development stage

- Early (strategy)
- Mid (operational)
- Late (submissions)

LATE
submission: regulatory approval and reimbursement

- Intervention / Comparator
- Outcome
- Study design



Scenario 2: pharmaceutical company looking for options using RWE

RWE Navigator / Find a RWE Option

Find a RWE Option

Find different options for using real-world evidence (RWE) based on the **issue** (or 'effectiveness challenge') you have identified using this site. Often these issues arise when generating 'early' evidence of relative effectiveness for a medicine.

- **Select** the stage of development for your medicine (**Early**, **Mid** or **Late**) then
- **Choose** a category of problem (study **Population**, defining the **Intervention** and/or its **Comparator**, choosing an **Outcome** measure).

You will now see a list of possible issues (left column) and corresponding RWE options (right column).

For each issue you can see which type of decision-making perspective (pharmaceutical R&D, Regulators, HTA) is likely to find this issue relevant at this stage of medicine development.

Click 'Read more' to find out about each issue.

Select a RWE option for more information and links to resources (including GetReal resources).

Decision-making perspective



Health technology assessment

[Read More →](#)



Pharmaceutical research and development

[Read More →](#)



Regulatory

[Read More →](#)

Select a development stage:

- Early** (strategy) 
- Mid** (operations)
- Late** (submissions)

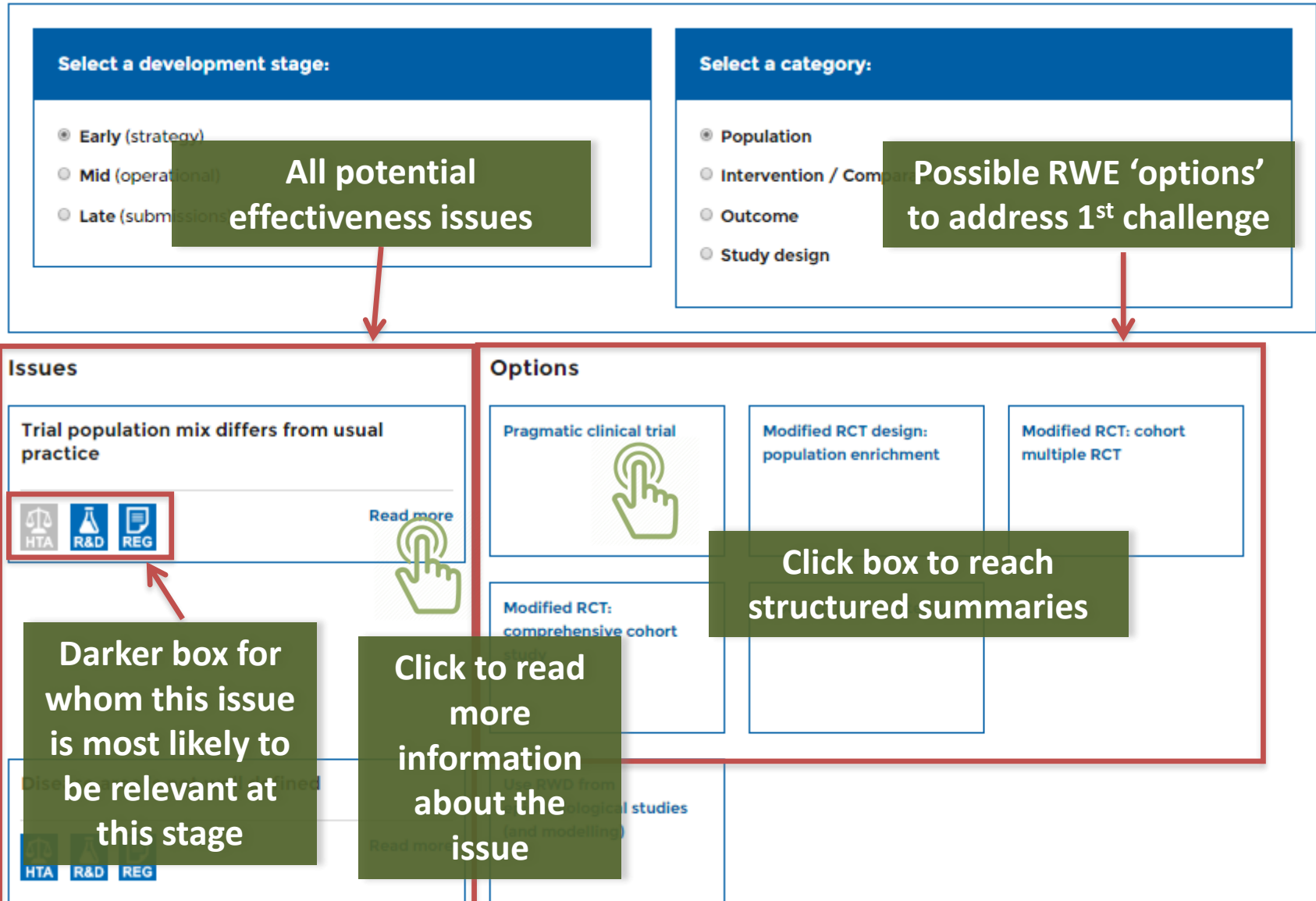
Select a category:

- Population** 
- Intervention** / **Comparator**
- Outcome**
- Study design**



innovative
medicines
initiative

Issues and RWE options for early + population



Structured summary

About Step 1: Clarify the issues Step 2: Find RWE options Use RWD Case studies Background Glossary **Directory of resources**

RWE Navigator / Use real-world data / Generate real-world evidence / Study design: Pragmatic trial

Study design: Pragmatic trial

What is it?

Pragmatic trials aim to measure the relative effectiveness of treatment strategies in real-world clinical practice, as first described by [Schwartz and Lellouch](#) in 1967. They provide evidence of the added value of a treatment strategy in routine clinical practice, while maintaining the strength of a randomised controlled trial.

This entails the comparison of randomised groups of patients that are similar to the target group in the characteristics that modify drug response, in the setting where they would be treated in real life. The treatment strategies for comparison and outcome measures should be relevant for routine clinical practice. The term 'pragmatic trial' is commonly used for trials that assess the difference between two treatment strategies, including extraneous factors (for example, the effect of a treatment on quality of life) to maximise generalisability to a broader setting or patient population.

For most new market-approved treatments, the evidence from randomised controlled trials is insufficient to fully guide clinicians and policy makers in choosing the optimal treatment for their patients. Pragmatic trials can help supplement this data with real-world evidence.

Sections covering what it is, why it's useful, when it's suitable, limitations and stakeholder feedback

Related links

- Learn more about study design considerations in pragmatic trials
- Pragmatic tool
- Nieuwenhuis et al 2016 publication in J Clin Epidemiol on the affect of pragmatic trial design features on features affect validity, generalizability, precision, or feasibility
- Sackett 2013 Clinical Trials publication on pragmatic trials
- van Staa et al 2014 HTA publication on Pragmatic trials

Links to authoritative sources, GetReal deliverables, full-text publications

- Cohort multiple randomised controlled trials (cmRCTs) / trials within cohorts (TriC)

Scenario 3:
HTA analyst wishing to
understand how RWE/RWD
can be incorporated in
evidence synthesis

About Step 1: Clarify the issues Step 2: Find RWE options Use RWD Case studies Background Glossary **Directory of resources**



- Data sources
- Generate evidence
- Summarise and synthesise evidence 
- Model effectiveness
- Assure quality and credibility
- Adjust for bias
- Data governance
- Software for evidence synthesis and modelling



Summarise and synthesise real-world evidence

Evidence synthesis

Evidence synthesis is the process of retrieving, evaluating and summarising the findings of all relevant studies on a certain subject area. Ideally, a systematic review is conducted to identify all the relevant available studies to support the evidence synthesis. For more information about systematic reviewing, see the [Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions](#).

Meta-analyses may then be used to combine the estimates from the individual studies identified.

Network meta-analysis (NMA) is an extension of the standard, pairwise meta-analysis, and can be used to synthesise results from studies that compare multiple competing interventions for the same condition.

For more information about evidence synthesis and network meta-analysis see [here](#).

Related links

- [Overview of evidence synthesis and NMA](#)
- [Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions](#)

Links through to pages describing evidence synthesis methods and network meta-analysis (NMA)

Including RWD in evidence synthesis

Meta-analysis and NMA are usually limited to the synthesis of evidence from randomised controlled trials (RCTs) because they are considered to be the most reliable source of information on relative effects. However, there is a growing interest in the medical community in incorporating evidence from non-randomised studies (NRSs), patient registries and other real-world data (RWD).

This strategy is particularly appealing when there are few RCTs to answer a specific research question. It may also be useful when the available RCTs do not align with the target population, prescription strategies and/or primary outcomes of the research question (i.e. when there is an efficacy-effectiveness gap, see a definition [here](#)).

Explains why you might consider RWD in evidence synthesis and links to pages explaining how this can be done



What technique for evidence synthesis are available to use?

The specific technique or analytical method used for the synthesis of evidence will depend on the nature of the data available, please see the table below.

		Links to relevant references on issues not covered by GetReal	Link to page describing method covered by GetReal work
		Aggregate	Aggregate + IPD
Source of data	RCT only	See references here .	See GetReal work and references here .
	Real-world data (with or without RCT)	See references here .	See GetReal work and references here .

More information on evidence synthesis & NMA

Indirect treatment comparison and network meta-analysis

Meta-analysis is a widely accepted statistical tool, used for synthesising evidence on the relative effects of interventions obtained from multiple individual RCTs. However, the value of pairwise meta-analysis may be limited in real-world clinical

'Best practice' for conventional indirect comparisons/network meta-analysis using aggregate RCT data

Network meta-analysis (NMA)

Information on best practice for conventional indirect comparisons and network meta-analysis (NMA) is summarised on this page, with links to useful resources.

For more information describing NMA see [here](#). The GetReal review on NMA methods can be found [here](#) and the articles identified in this review can be found [here](#).

Assessing the assumptions of NMA

NMA adopts the same set of assumptions as a usual (pairwise) meta-analysis, but also uses an additional assumption that may be hard to assess, called transitivity (also called similarity or exchangeability) ([Ades 2011](#), [Salanti 2012](#), [Efthimiou et al 2016](#)).

- Transitivity assumes that information for the comparison between treatments B and C can be obtained via another treatment, A, using the comparisons A vs. B and A vs. C.
- Researchers can assess this assumption by checking the distribution of effect modifiers across comparisons ([Jansen et al 2011](#)).
- They can also use conceptual considerations, for example, checking whether the missing treatments in each trial are 'missing at random' or whether the choice of treatment comparisons in the trials is not associated, either directly or indirectly with the relative effectiveness of the interventions, and

do not include some of the pairwise comparisons that can be obtained by undertaking an NMA.

For example, a pairwise comparison, B vs. C, may be carried out directly, or it may be carried out indirectly, by comparing B vs. A and A vs. C. In the diagram below, for B vs. C there is no direct evidence, so two sources of evidence can be

comparisons

comparisons

Individual RCTs may not cover all of the treatments (A-F) and a set of pairwise comparisons may not cover all of the pairwise comparisons. For example, for the comparison there may be direct and indirect evidence. To synthesise all of the evidence

Scenario 4: Anyone looking to understand more about GetReal case studies

About Step 1: Clarify the issues Step 2: Find RWE options Use RWD Case studies Background Glossary Directory of resources

Detecting channeling bias

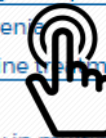
- [Detecting channeling bias after launch – implications for comparative effectiveness studies: a case study in anticoagulant medicines](#)
- [Detecting channeling bias after launch – implications for comparative effectiveness studies: a case study in antihypertensive medicines](#)
- [Detecting channeling bias after launch – implications for comparative effectiveness studies: a case study in diabetes](#)

Alternative study designs

- [Early pragmatic trials: a case study in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)
- [Adjusting for drop out from cohort multiple randomised controlled trial: a case study in cardiovascular disease](#)
- [Modelling and simulation of a population enrichment RCT: a case study in schizophrenia](#)

Evidence synthesis and network meta-analysis

- [Methods for network meta-analysis using individual participant data: a case study in depression](#)
- [Incorporating non-randomised studies in NMA of RCTs: a case study in schizophrenia](#)
- [Using RWE to connect 'disconnected' networks of evidence and inform second-line treatment effects: a case study in rheumatoid arthritis](#)
- [Using RWE to estimate relative effectiveness and inform trial design: A case study in multiple sclerosis](#)



Incorporating non-randomised studies in NMA of RCTs: a case study in schizophrenia

Context

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder which affects the way a person thinks, feels and behaves. It can lead to abnormal social behaviour and may lead to difficulties in distinguishing reality from the imaginary. Schizophrenia has been ranked among the top causes of disability worldwide (Tandon et al 2008).

There are a wide range of competing antipsychotic drugs available in the market. Many randomised controlled trials (RCTs) that assess most of the available treatment options cover a wide range of treatment comparisons, forming a network of evidence (see [here](#) for a description of network meta-analysis). In addition, there have been non-randomised studies (NRSs) measuring the effectiveness of drugs in real-world clinical settings. However, the two different types of evidence have not been jointly synthesised. The benefits of adding NRS, a type of real-world data (RWD), to the synthesis is explained [here](#).

What was examined in this case study?

The aim of this case study was to assess existing methodology and develop new methods for combining evidence from RCTs and NRSs in a network meta-analysis (NMA). Specific issues examined were:

- How can inconsistencies between the different types of evidence (randomised and non-randomised) be assessed?
- What analytic methods can be used to incorporate RWE from NRSs into an NMA?

Headings give context, explain brief methods, findings/conclusions, limitations of case study, (any) stakeholder feedback

Related links

- Network meta-analysis incorporating RWE
- Efthimiou et al 2016 publication in StatMed on combining randomised and non-randomised evidence in an NMA [TO BE ADDED]

Link to publications and deliverables



rwe-navigator.eu



Heather Stegenga: heather.stegenga@nice.org.uk