Abstract
Patient-Centered Benefit-Risk Assessment Using Preference Elicitation Techniques

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In recent years Health Technology Assessment (HTA) processes have expanded beyond those countries dominated with a single payer, and with this expansion there has been renewed attention placed on the fundamental evaluation methods that are used. While there has been considerable attention placed on comparative effectiveness research (CER) in the US, another fundamental issue has emerged: how can HTA better involve patients. Here patient centered strategies and methods can be categorized into two types: those that involve patients directly in decision making and those that aim at the study of patients needs and preferences in terms of benefit-risk trade-offs.

In benefit-risk assessment, one may identify two subsequent steps, (1) the quantification of benefits and risks and (2) the judgment of the benefit-risk ratios in terms of acceptability. Patient preferences may be relevant in HTA by combining benefits and risks into one weighted aggregate measure (for drug approval), but also for incorporating patients’ views in the reimbursement and recommendation decisions.

This presentation will discuss the relative merit of including patient preferences in decision making as well as the process of benefit-risk assessment and discusses (dis-)advantages of preference elicitation methods, like conjoint analysis and multi-criteria decision analysis.

Short bio
Maarten IJzerman received his MSc in 1993 in Clinical Epidemiology at the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Nijmegen and a PhD in biomedical engineering at University of Twente. He joined several courses on economic evaluation and decision making at the Center for Health Economics at the University of York, UK. Currently, Maarten J. IJzerman is full professor and chair of the dept. Health Technology & Services Research at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. He is affiliated with Case Western Reserve University and the Metrohealth Medical Center in Cleveland, OH USA. He serves on several committees including the Health Council of the Netherlands (GR), the Netherlands organisation for health care research and development (ZONMW), and the Royal Netherlands Committee on Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

His main research-focus is the clinical and economic assessment of healthcare technology, in particular medical devices. Maarten and his teamwork on methods to evaluate and scan for emerging technologies and on methods to predict health economic impact of medical technologies in development. Part of their research is the elicitation of patient preferences for evaluating benefits and risks of medical technology.