



December 2024 WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES: Adherence

Meeting details	
Location	MS Teams
Meeting date	3 rd December 2024
Meeting time	10:30 GMT
Chair(s)	Amy Chan
Attendees	Joan Soriano Job Boven Walter Canonica Valeria Perugini
Apologies	Esther Metting Omar Usmani Therese Lapperre John Busby Alan Kaplan Ioanna Tsiligianni

1. Introduction and Purpose of Meeting	Amy Chan introduced herself and explained her involvement with the group, particularly after Sinthia's departure and her work with AZ. She emphasised the goal of reinvigorating the working group and discussed the potential for new directions.
2. Project Ideas	<p>Amy presented several potential research projects aligned with the group's focus:</p> <p>1-Global trends in asthma medication use: A retrospective study using population-based databases to examine changes in medication use, particularly post-GINA 2019 guideline updates for asthma.</p> <p>2-Oral corticosteroid use: An investigation into global trends and patterns of OCS use, building on previous studies like those in the UK and led by D Price but at an international scale.</p> <p>3-Comparison of guidelines for asthma / COPD: A study on adherence to national asthma and COPD guidelines, drawing from a methodology similar to a systematic scoping review of COPD guidelines in low- and</p>



	<p>middle-income countries (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0012369220348698).</p> <p>4-Biologic use and adherence over time: Exploring factors leading to non-adherence to biologics using survey methodology and examining global trends using population-based retrospective datasets.</p> <p>5-Access criteria to biologics and impact on outcomes: Analysing how differences in access criteria for biologics affect usage and patient outcomes, similar to previous studies on severe asthma treatment.</p>
<p>3. Feasibility and Focus: Selecting the Right Projects</p>	<p>The group then turned its attention to the feasibility of these proposed projects, focusing on which one would be the most manageable and impactful to pursue first. Several important considerations were discussed:</p> <p>1-National Guidelines Comparison: Job suggested that the group could begin by comparing national guidelines for asthma and COPD. This comparison would focus on how different countries' guidelines address key issues like adherence, biologic treatments, and oral corticosteroid use. He pointed out that many national guidelines lag behind international recommendations, and there is often a lack of up-to-date guidelines. A systematic review of national guidelines could identify gaps, highlight inconsistencies, and provide recommendations for improvements in treatment strategies. This project could be a relatively low-cost and timely initiative, as it wouldn't require ethics approvals or complicated data collection, making it feasible to start right away. This could be of interest to funders if REG then identify key outcomes that could be 'quality indicators' e.g. reference to adherence, OCS stewardship recommendations that could be used on an ongoing basis for repeat guideline reviews by REG.</p> <p>2-Database Working Group Collaboration: Another important aspect of the discussion was the potential to collaborate with the database working group. The group could explore the possibility of leveraging retrospective data sets from multiple countries to conduct studies on medication use, adherence, and biologic therapy. However, Joan and Valeria noted that using databases for multinational research presents challenges, particularly around data standardisation, accessibility, and the time required for data gathering, cleaning and validation as well as ethics. There was also the suggestion to check with OPCRCD to see if there are any overlaps in study interests.</p>
<p>4. Challenges and Considerations</p>	<p>Several challenges and considerations were raised regarding the proposed research projects:</p> <p>1-Timeline and Approvals: Joan highlighted a key challenge when using national databases for research: the time required for obtaining ethical approvals. In many countries, these processes can take up to a year or more, which could delay the initiation of dataset-based studies. Furthermore, the group agreed that working with databases may involve complex logistical issues, especially when datasets come from different countries with varying ethical approval processes.</p> <p>2-Data Standardisation: Valeria discussed the difficulty of standardising data across multiple countries. She emphasised that collecting</p>



	<p>comparable data from various national databases requires careful planning, as the data may not always be collected in the same format or according to the same protocols. She also noted that it could take several months to clean and validate the data, which could extend the project timeline significantly.</p> <p>3-Interest from Pharmaceutical Companies: Amy also mentioned the increasing interest from pharmaceutical companies in research related to biologics and oral corticosteroid stewardship. Pharmaceutical companies may be willing to fund studies that focus on biologic adherence and OCS stewardship, as these are critical areas in improving patient outcomes. This could provide the group with additional resources to support the proposed projects and be able to leverage off the multinational strength of REG.</p>
<p>5. Next Steps and Focus Areas</p>	<p>Explore using Retrospective Data: The group decided to explore approaching members of the Databases and Coding WG to understand data access, structure, and alignment with database projects, particularly on medication adherence and biologic use. This could lead to joint WG projects.</p> <p>Engage with OPRI and OPCRD: Joan suggested leveraging the existing data from the OPCRD and OPRI to understand if similar studies have already been conducted and to discuss potential collaborations. This would ensure alignment with ongoing research efforts and provide opportunities for additional funding and expertise.</p> <p>Prioritise the Guideline Comparison Project: This will be the primary focus moving forward, with REG members reviewing and comparing national guidelines to assess alignment with GINA, GOLD, and the latest evidence. The project will focus on recommendations for oral corticosteroid use, medication adherence, biologics, and etc. The finalisation of this idea will take place at the next Adherence WG during the REG Summit 2025.</p> <p>Explore funding opportunities: Continue exploring with potential funders whether these ideas would be of interest for funding.</p>