

New Medical Technologies and Public Voices

Presentation to SWG

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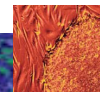
April 6, 2012

**Initially presented at ICOC Session March 21, 2012 by Hastings
Center**

Working Group two-day meeting January 2012 in Washington, DC

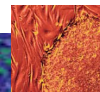


- CIRM helped sponsor Hastings Center working group meeting on role of public voice in developing new medical technology
 - Dr. Michael Gusmano, Research Scholar Hastings Center, Assoc Prof, Health Policy/Mgmt NY Medical College led session
 - 20 participants, including FDA staff, representatives of several patient groups, industry, and health policy scholars, including experts on the regulatory process and the role of patients in health policy decision making. CIRM participants Drs. Duane Roth and Ellen Feigal
- Discussion-oriented agenda, with short, briefing-type presentations by experts in research, ethical, legal, and/or policy questions



What role should patients, consumers play in development of new medical technology?

- Public involvement in health technology assessment (HTA) is now a common practice in the U.S.
 - What is the value of public involvement?
 - Are current mechanisms for patient and consumer voice in the FDA process sufficient?
 - What more should the agency do?



The value of including patients and consumers in a deliberative process

- Potential to broaden the meaning of benefits and risks
- Increase attention to patient heterogeneity and the value of conditionality
- Enhance legitimacy and trust in the process



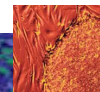
Current and Proposed FDA Initiatives

- Patient Representative Program
- Research Advocacy Program
- FDA Patient Network
- New Benefit-Risk Assessment Tool



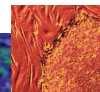
The importance of reaching out to a broader range of voices

- How representative are representatives?
- Deferring to experts
- Avoiding the “urgency narrative”
- Including the voice of consumers and patients
- Balancing the need for more voices and the value of regular interaction among small groups



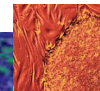
Broadening the scope of involvement

- Move beyond the review process
- A “citizens council” to address policy questions?
 - Supplement existing programs with additional deliberative methods
 - deliberative polling
 - citizen juries
 - consensus conferences
 - town hall meetings



Public input requires commitment!

- Training should focus on the process of deliberation in addition to substance
- Regular interaction is valuable
- Genuine deliberation requires:
 - bidirectional conversation between scientists and advocates;
 - engagement from the outset in framing and implementation;
 - ongoing collaboration between meetings;
 - clear expectations on all sides;
 - equal participation so advocates do not feel as though they are second in rank



Preliminary recommendations



Greater outreach to identify a broader range of stakeholders

- The FDA should adopt an active, rather than a passive approach
 - Reaching out to groups that have worked with the FDA in the past and posting information on the web site is a good start
 - The FDA should work with professional associations, universities, industry and advocacy groups to identify a broader range of participants



Develop new mechanisms for public input

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- Move beyond advisory and review committees
 - These mechanisms are important, but do not reflect the range of decisions in which public input is relevant
 - Conflict of interest requirements for participation on Advisory and Review committees restrict the number of participants who can engage with the FDA
- FDA should encourage “representatives” to report back to the groups they represent – and encourage them to seek input from groups



The FDA should provide training on the process of deliberation

- This training should be offered to scientific experts as well as patient and consumer advocates

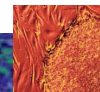


Use the new benefit-risk assessment tool to solicit info from a broader set of stakeholders

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- This tool encourages “moral reasoning” and should not be limited to the review process
- If the FDA provides sufficient training and technical information, this tool can empower public representatives to address a range of important questions



Develop evaluations of each process designed to encourage public participation

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- To what extent are these processes fair, flexible, and transparent?

