

Additional request for proposals relating to the E-QALY project

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In response to the recent EuroQol association meeting, the DSWG is releasing an additional RFP to react to a number of the issues raised during the meeting about the E-QALY project. We would like to encourage all members to consider submitting a proposal to facilitate wider involvement in the E-QALY initiative across the whole EuroQol Group

Proposals will be welcomed in the areas highlighted below. These areas incorporate but extend the areas raised in the RFP released in early March.

1. Literature review replication

The E-QALY project team have conducted a large scale review of qualitative studies investigating the impact on quality of life of health and care interventions. Although extensive, this work only reviewed papers published in the English language, and therefore the results may not be applicable to non English speaking countries and cultures. One concern resulting from this is that there may be important cultural differences in the conceptual framework that have been missed by the focus on English language literature, and this may be a concern for the wider applicability of the E-QALY measure.

Therefore we call for proposals to replicate the review of qualitative studies in non-English languages. To facilitate this the project group would work closely with the E-QALY team who would provide detailed information about their methodology including search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria and data extraction process.

2. Face validation and cognitive debriefing work

During the item selection and reduction phase, face validation of the wider item pool was conducted in six countries (Argentina, Australia, China, Germany, United Kingdom, United States). This work has informed the items taken forward to the psychometric phase.

There are opportunities for further face validation work of both the item pool and, subsequently, item and questionnaire format. We call for qualitative studies on the face validity of the item pool, and also the initial (gamma) version of the E-QALY instrument (including its layout).

Study teams can take advantage of the existing face validity protocols, but we also welcome qualitative work using, for example, cognitive debriefing or think aloud methods to understand item content, format and ease of completion.

Studies could be from the perspective of a range of populations including additional countries conducting full face validation work, or subpopulations (e.g., older adults, patients,

indigenous populations, persons with disabilities or sensory impairments) who may have particular perspectives on the items and item format.

3. Comparative analysis

In the earlier March 2019 RFP the DSWG call for proposals testing the new classification system in comparison to other measures (once the gamma version becomes available). We reiterate that request here. In order to test the performance of the new E-QALY measure, it is important to test its performance in comparison to other measures including, for example, the EQ-5D-5L, bolt ons, and condition specific instruments. This could be done by adding the gamma version of the measure to currently planned studies to allow assessment of its validity). We welcome proposals in this area.

4. Pilot valuation work

Alongside the development of the E-QALY classification system using psychometric evidence, it is important to ensure that the items and dimensions selected are amenable to valuation, and that respondents are willing to trade across different areas of health and quality of life.

We call for proposals conducting pilot valuation work using Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE) methods to examine preferences for the items and dimensions that could be included in the new classification system. The focus of this call is on experiments including latent scale DCE methods to generate initial preference evidence to assess a range of questions including, but not limited to, the following:

- Do the potential dimension severity levels that can be used for E-QALY demonstrate evidence of preference reversal? (cf. the reversal of estimates for severe and extreme in some EQ-5D-5L valuation work)
- Are respondents willing and able to trade across the diverse and potentially large number of areas of health and quality of life that the E-QALY could include? And if so, what is the relative contribution of the different dimensions to respondent and population preferences?
- What prior values (if any) should we use in the design of future E-QALY valuation studies?

The evidence generated can be used alongside the qualitative and psychometric work to inform item/dimension selection and future valuation protocols. Proposals under this topic will be evaluated by both the DSWG and VWG.

To discuss your proposal ideas in more detail please contact Brendan Mulhern (Brendan.mulhern@chere.uts.edu.au) or John Brazier (j.e.brazier@sheffield.ac.uk). Please note that the deadline for submissions is the 30th April 2019 (in line with the wider RFP deadline)