1. Descriptive systems RFP - Feb 2020

For this round of funding, the Descriptive System Working Group is calling for proposals contributing to 2 broad research themes:

1. Testing the coverage and validity of the EQ-5D instruments in different populations. All types of validity e.g. face, content, construct is of interest. Examples of populations include, but are not limited to, different cultural, demographic and disease groups. Proposals using both qualitative and quantitative methods are welcome.

2. Testing the impact of time and recall period on the EQ-5D descriptive system performance. Research teams are encouraged to suggest the methodological approaches to use for these studies.

Further information is provided below:

1.1.   *Testing the coverage and validity of EQ-5D Instruments*

Instrument Coverage

There has been a significant amount of DSWG research focused on testing the coverage of EQ-5D instruments internationally, by both focusing on the relevance of the five items themselves as well as investigating the areas of QoL that are important to people. There is also work in this area conducted outside of the EuroQol Research Foundation.

We are therefore calling for proposals conducting syntheses or reviews of current findings from the studies investigating item coverage, to draw conclusions and establish where further development is required. This will include EuroQol funded work, and wider publications. Projects in this area will involve close collaboration with the DSWG to identify studies, and provide syntheses of findings to inform future research calls.

Instrument Validity

The DSWG is also calling for research proposals investigating the validity and appropriateness of EQ-5D instruments. This includes, but is not limited to, research on different cultural, demographic and disease groups. We call for proposals:

- Assessing the cultural appropriateness of the EQ-5D and its validity for use as a common measure across demographic and disease groups. This work could involve primary or secondary data collection and could employ quantitative and/or qualitative methods.

- Conducting further primary research to assess the validity and psychometric performance of the EQ-5D across populations and disease specific groups in comparison to other measures. This includes assessing the performance of the instruments in measuring multi-morbidities. Projects using both quantitative and/or qualitative methods are welcome. See note below for further proposal requirements

Note: In the proposals submitted it is essential to delineate whether the objective is to assess domains, items, or attributes. A domain refers to the concept that you wish to measure or describe. An item is a measure of a domain (e.g., a question, a cognitive task). An attribute is a description of a domain (e.g., adjectival statement, vignette). A domain may be measured using multiple items and described using various attributes; however, each of the five EQ-5D-5L domains has one item and one attribute. Any assessment of domains, items, or attributes must account for context, such the disease, language, and setting. A domain/item/attribute may be appropriate and validated in one setting, but inappropriate and invalid in another.

1.2.   *Testing the impact of time on eq-5d reporting*

Many acute diseases and conditions show variations in health over time. Some conditions, such as infectious diseases e.g. flu, episodic conditions e.g. epilepsy and 'event' like conditions e.g. stroke, last for a short time and may have different illness progressions. Even chronic conditions, which may be progressive or stable over time e.g. angina, show substantial fluctuations. This poses challenges for the measurement of quality of life and computation of QALYs. There is limited evidence about the performance of the EQ-5D with regards to duration and fluctuations in conditions, and we welcome research in this area. Possible approaches might experiment with repeated measurements e.g. longitudinal data and qualitative methods investigating how patients experience their illness, how they use EQ-5D and how HRQoL measurements or instructions may be improved. Alternatively, the descriptive system recall period might be modified by changing the instructions using different timeframes than "your health today" e.g. "during your last episode", "in the last week" etc. Proposals in this area are encouraged.

To discuss potential proposal submissions, or for further information about any of the research areas listed please contact Brendan Mulhern (Brendan.mulhern@chere.uts.edu.au).