

Engaging stakeholders on Price & Reimbursement of Orphan Medicinal Products and Innovative Therapies

Definition and proof-of-concept application of a conceptual framework

30 March 2018

Executive summary

We have developed and applied a conceptual framework for facilitating multistakeholder discussion on price and reimbursement evaluation processes designed to help organize ideas, structure discussion and identify areas where evaluation processes may be strengthened or improved.

Framework design was based on key concepts identified from a structured literature search complemented with a targeted internet and stakeholder search. The search strategy findings were analyzed and organized into 4 conceptual framework topics (value, uncertainty, budget and sustainability) grouped into 2 components (evidence, i.e. value and uncertainty; and context, i.e. budget and sustainability).

To test the framework, a roundtable discussion was organized on 22 February 2016. Participants selected from different stakeholders – including members of academia, evaluators, sickness funds and authorities representatives – were invited to express their personal views, based on their practical expertise. As such, these views were not to be construed as formal positions or to be representative of the position of any instance or institution any participant may be affiliated with.

The roundtable discussion focused on the key concepts of value and uncertainty in terms of their assessment and impact on price and reimbursement procedures taking into account the specific context of OMPs.

To continue to ensure access to innovative therapies in general, and OMPs in particular, while safeguarding sustainability and maximizing value, open and constructive dialogue on the principles underlying price and reimbursement procedures is of paramount importance. Our approach demonstrates the potential to engage different stakeholders on these principles in a structured and constructive manner.



Context

Since the introduction of a specific regulatory framework for orphan medicinal products (OMPs) in 2000¹, the number of approved OMPs in Europe has continuously grown. Despite this favorable framework and the successes in terms of newly authorized products, securing patient access to orphan drugs in a sustainable way remains a topic of key importance and concern for many stakeholders. OMP value and affordability are high priority issues for policy makers; and decisions regarding their pricing and funding are highly complex. There is an ongoing debate on how OMP value should be assessed and valued and policy makers in many countries are considering reforms to improve and sustain access to OMPs.

Celgene, as a bio-pharmaceutical company that has invested, and continues to invest, significantly in OMP research and development, seeks to encourage an open debate on ways to ensure access to OMPs. To initiate this debate, Celgene has previously published a paper outlining an industry view on OMP pricing and reimbursement formulated as 10 principles covering value assessment, innovation & price and the sustainability of the OMP model². This paper served as discussion starter for a European roundtable discussion. To extend discussion to the national level, we intend to refine the '10 principles' framework to a conceptual framework suitable to engage national stakeholders. This framework should help organize ideas, structure discussion and identify areas where evaluation processes may be strengthened or improved. Next, we intend to leverage the framework in a proof-of-concept roundtable discussion, engaging individuals with hands-on expertise from different stakeholders.

This document outlines the two-step approach used to develop the conceptual framework and its application to a proof-of-concept roundtable discussion. First, we describe how the framework was developed based on an analysis of the Belgian price and reimbursement landscape. Next, the approach used to engage stakeholders on the platform is detailed and the results of the roundtable discussion are summarized.

II Developing the conceptual framework

I Belgian landscape analysis

1.1 Methodology

The Belgian price & reimbursement landscape analysis for orphan medicinal products data collection consisted of 4 complementary searches: a structured PubMed search, a targeted website and stakeholder search and a supplementary quantitative web search. The raw findings retained from the different search approaches were processed using consolidated data extraction sheets.

¹ REGULATION (EC) No 141/2000 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 December 1999 on orphan medicinal products

Gutierrez et al. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases (2015) 10:53



The data search was performed from different stakeholder perspectives and focused on the Belgian price and reimbursement context for orphan medicinal products:

- Academics;
- Healthcare providers;
- Industry;
- Sickness funds;
- Belgian policy enablers, makers or executors;
- EU policy makers;
- Patient organizations.

A detailed description of the methodology and approach, as well as an overview of sources consulted in performing the landscape analysis are provided as an appendix to this document (Appendix A).

1.2 Key findings

Stakeholders recognize the specificity of OMPs. There is a broad agreement on the fact that uncertainty is typically larger for OMPs than for products in more prevalent disease areas. Stakeholders are also largely aligned in recognizing that elements of value other than those traditionally considered may be of importance in assessing OMP value.

This specificity is to some extent taken into account in price and reimbursement evaluations, with more leeway given to uncertainty on clinical efficacy and a relatively higher willingness to pay, expressed as an acceptance of an expected higher per patient cost.

Due to the often limited knowledge and scattered expertise in rare diseases, involvement of external experts – patients or healthcare professionals – is required to capture the full disease context and to evaluate value. According to the landscape analysis, there is no clear consensus or support on the degree of involvement of patient and healthcare practitioner expertise in the process of a product's price and reimbursement assessment. Current procedure allows to include external expert advice. However, there is less practical support for the inclusion of patient expertise in the reimbursement procedure. This lack of external involvement has been criticized by some stakeholders, feeling unease with the perceived "technocratic" approach employed in evaluating price & reimbursement submissions.

No specific tools for integration of value elements other than simple cost-effectiveness analyses are routinely used in price and reimbursement evaluations. The submission of a cost-effectiveness analysis is not mandatory for OMPs. This reflects recognition that selecting a suitable comparator is often not straightforward; and that clinical data required for the development of cost-effectiveness models are often lacking.

Some stakeholders find that cost-effectiveness analyses, being the current tool of choice for evaluating value for money and benchmarking willingness to pay should be routinely submitted for OMPs. There is some agreement that traditional ICER values may be insufficiently sensitive to OMP value, resulting in necessarily larger than average ICERs. Alternative approaches, using weighted quality adjusted life years (QALY) or modified ICER thresholds have been proposed to mitigate these issues.

OMP specific elements of value are most often implicitly taken into account, rather than explicitly. The lack of quantification through objective measures can render it difficult to balance these elements in price and reimbursement procedures.

Inclusion of patient-metrics (Quality of Life, Patient Testimonials, Patient Satisfaction) is not always perceived positively, due to the lack of standardized tools and limited feasibility of a quantitative analysis, reinforced by the rarity of OMP conditions.

Formal multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) frameworks may offer a more comprehensive approach to integrating disparate value elements. These have thus far not been used in practice and proper theoretical and practical frameworks have not yet fully been established.

Uncertainty discussions are often restricted to budgetary uncertainty, rather than value uncertainty. The estimation of budgetary impact is deemed to be extremely important in the context of OMP price and reimbursement evaluations. The added uncertainty on cost-effectiveness in the context of typically higher per patient prices presents a challenge potentially impeding or slowing access to OMPs.

Real-world data can be used to reduce uncertainty on the value or budgetary impact of a drug. Real-world data can be used to collect additional evidence supporting the effectiveness claims made at reimbursement. Real-world data can help monitoring outcome measures that are the basis of a risk-sharing agreement. Value-of-information techniques can be used to decide whether the benefits of collecting more data exceed the costs of further data collection.

2 A conceptual framework

The landscape analysis suggests that the major hurdles faced by OMPs in current price and reimbursement evaluations are linked to "value" and "uncertainty". The combined impact of the limitations of current evaluation approaches in accounting for OMP specificities and the higher levels of uncertainty typically associated with limited clinical experience, lack of suitable comparator treatments and restricted evidence put considerable pressure on the objective evaluation of OMPs.

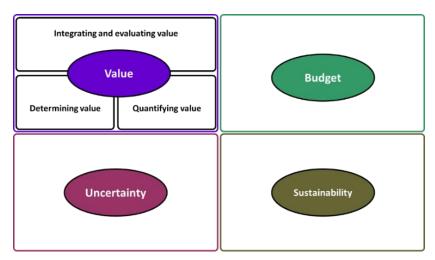


Figure 1: Proposed conceptual framework

In particular, the analysis suggests that separating value assessment and uncertainty management, as well as distinguishing between budgetary and value uncertainty, is key in OMP price and reimbursement evaluations. Therefore, there is a need for a conceptual framework that would allow to have a more structured and articulated approach to these overlapping, yet different concepts. Distinguishing the evidence driven "value" and "uncertainty" concepts from the "budgetary reality" and "societal sustainability context" in which evaluations are performed, may aid in separating "value" from "uncertainty". In this view, the task of the CRM consists of assessing a product's value and uncertainty, established from the available evidence, on the product's intended use in the context of current budgetary reality and future societal sustainability.

Building on the European '10 principles' value framework³, integrating the results of the Belgian landscape analysis, we propose a conceptual price and reimbursement framework consisting of 2 "evidence" and 2 "context" driven elements (Figure 1): value, uncertainty, budgetary reality and societal sustainability.

Value refers to a product's value elements, in the broadest possible sense, reflecting some aspect of desirability, be it from the perspective of the patient, the payer, or the society as a whole. A value framework should cover three immediate needs: (1) establish a reference of what value elements could and should be included in the presentation of a product's value; (2) provide a means for objective, inter-product comparable quantification of these value elements; and (3) provide a means for integration of these quantified value elements allowing for benchmarking different products, taking into account their expected cost and budgetary impact.

Uncertainty is caused by a paucity of evidence, introducing uncertainty on the product's value elements or its projected budgetary impact.

Budgetary reality reflects the evaluation of the estimated budgetary impact against currently available budgets.

Societal sustainability, finally, reflects a societies' capacity to support a product's reimbursement in the future by considering its impact on society as a whole.

III Engaging stakeholders on the conceptual framework

Based on the landscape analysis finding that the major hurdles faced by OMPs in current price and reimbursement evaluations are linked to "value" and "uncertainty", these concepts were used to drive a proof-of-concept roundtable discussion with experts with relevant experience representing various stakeholders involved in price & reimbursement procedures. Participants were provided with an overview of the landscape analysis approach and outcomes and a 'discussion starter' text drawn from the landscape analysis, outlined below. They were then asked to complete an electronic survey which was discussed during a 1-on-1 phone interview with each participant. The interviews were organized in November – December 2015 and followed up by the roundtable discussion on February 22, 2016.

³ Gutierrez et al. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases (2015) 10:53



I Background - Discussion starter text

1.1 Establishing OMP value

The landscape analysis demonstrates a need for an objective value framework, which can be used for comprehensive, balanced evaluation of OMP value in the context of price and reimbursement evaluations. OMPs have specific elements of value, which in some cases are more difficult to quantify and which do not fall in the scope of current tools used in the price and reimbursement value assessment chains, such as budget impact and cost-effectiveness analyses. As a result, elements such as disease rarity, disease severity, the lack of suitable alternatives to treatment, or even ethical considerations the rule of rescue or the broader societal impact, though essential to OMP value, are difficult to objectively consider in price and reimbursement assessments.

The issue of developing value assessment frameworks integrating differing elements of value has previously been addressed in different countries and in literature. Multicriteria decision analysis frameworks, both specifically for orphan drugs as well as in non-orphan indications have been proposed. Different frameworks integrate different value drivers, including elements linked to disease impact, target population characteristics, impact of the drug or technology and other decision factors. An overview of published MCDA frameworks and a summary of criteria used in these frameworks is included as an appendix to this document (Appendix B). Despite the efforts in developing MCDA frameworks, there is of yet no consensus on the most appropriate tool, nor the value elements to be included and the use of MCDA frameworks in the context of price and reimbursement submissions remains a subject of ongoing debate.

1.2 Dealing with uncertainty in the context of OMPs

Uncertainty on value should be distinguished from value uncertainty. Value uncertainty for OMPs is mainly due to the smaller target populations for OMP indications, typically resulting in less available data to accurately assess effectiveness and efficacy. Budgetary uncertainty is mainly caused by elements outside of a product's value, such as a lack of data on the actual size of the target population.

Without appropriate risk management approaches, uncertainty may disproportionately impact price and reimbursement evaluations. Conceptually, uncertainty can be managed in one of two ways: statically or dynamically.

In static risk management approaches, a pre-defined set of rules is applied at predetermined time points, regardless of the outcome in real life. For instance, a payback mechanism to be applied upon reaching a certain budget impact. More clinically driven and pay-for-performance schemes can also be implemented, for instance with predetermined paybacks for non-responders. Pay-back mechanisms are often favored due to their perceived predictability.

Dynamic risk management approaches employ a different philosophy, in which a product's real life performance is continually evaluated against criteria which can be adapted over time. Dynamic risk management approaches are aligned with ongoing discussions on adaptive licensing, in which a product's price and reimbursement conditions can be revised more than once after the initial reimbursement. As such, it offers the possibility of a more long-term product life-cycle management.



The optimal risk management approach may be different for managing value or budgetary risk and a combination of approaches may represent the most adequate solution for simultaneously managing budgetary and value uncertainty.

One key differentiator in static versus dynamic risk management approaches is that the latter typically require longer time horizons and may introduce additional uncertainty at initial reimbursement for both payer and provider. A disadvantage of short-term static risk management approaches is that the limited time horizon they offer may not lead to a more defined view of the value of the product.

In considering the collection of real-life data, there should be a general reflection on the most efficient data collection solutions. Objectivity and efficiency gains may be obtained from organizing data collection from a disease point of view rather than a product point of view (i.e. disease registries as opposed to product registries). This may require a more general approach to data collection, management and exploitation than those which can be established in the context of a specific reimbursement evaluation.

Finally, in considering the benefits of acquiring real-life data in the context of specific reimbursement submissions, the cost or complexity of generating these additional data should be balanced against the additional value they contribute. Value-of-information techniques can be used to decide whether the benefits of collecting more data exceed the costs of further data collection.

2 Survey questions

A copy of the survey provided to participants is listed in appendix C.

IV Roundtable discussion

I Meeting participants

Roundtable participants were selected based on their interest or involvement in price & reimbursement evaluations of innovative therapies in Belgium, including members of academia, evaluators, sickness funds and authorities representatives. Participants were invited to express their personal views, based on their practical expertise in price and reimbursement of innovative therapies in Belgium. As such, these views should not be construed as formal positions or to be representative of the position of any instance or institution any participant may be affiliated with.

Additional participants included representatives from **hict**, facilitating the meeting, and Celgene. Celgene provided the logistics for the meeting. Their representatives attended the meeting as observers and did not participate in discussions.



2 Roundtable discussion summary

2.1 Establishing value

2.1.1 Value elements

Summary statements

Question	Agreement
OMPs have specific elements of value in comparison with drugs in more	+
prevalent indications	<u> </u>
Some value elements, notably for OMPs, are not formally considered or	
valued by current pricing and value assessment tools	
There is a need for an objective value framework for OMPs, covering	
three immediate needs: (i) establish a reference of what value elements	
could and should be included in the presentation of a product's value;	
(ii) provide a means for integration of these value elements; and (3)	++
provide a means for integration of these quantified value elements	
allowing for benchmarking different products, taking into account their	
expected cost and budgetary impact	
Multi-criteria decision analysis frameworks should be considered for	+++
OMP value assessment	

Legend: Agreement (+++: unanimous; ++: significant ($\geq 80\%$); +: moderate ($\geq 60\%$)); **Disagreement** (---: unanimous, --: significant ($\geq 80\%$); -: moderate ($\geq 60\%$); No majority agrees or disagrees ($\mathbf{0}$)

Discussion

In the context of the evaluation of a price & reimbursement submission, by Royal Decree, "value" is determined based on three elements::

- (Impact on) mortality;
- (Impact on) morbidity;
- (Impact on) quality of life.

The main challenge in dealing with all innovative therapies (including, but not limited to OMPs) lies in evaluating these three criteria consistently and thoroughly. For instance, currently, there are no weights assigned to each of them. Hence, in some files mortality may be considered as more important whereas in others morbidity or quality of life will be assigned more importance.

An additional element is that in the consideration of these 3 elements there is a *disease* related aspect and a treatment related aspect. The current impact of the disease on patients (in terms of mortality, morbidity and quality of life) is an indicator of therapeutic need. Indeed, the higher this current impact (or, more accurately, the lower the remaining medical need not covered by actual treatment alternatives), the higher the need for a new and better treatment. The impact of the treatment on each of these elements is an indicator of the size of the benefit that can be achieved, i.e. to which extent can the therapeutic need be fulfilled. The value of a new medicine is driven by both the impact of the disease (unmet need) and the treatment (reduction in medical need through treatment).

Though the three value elements included in the royal decree, taking into account these disease and treatment related aspects, offer a basis for a framework for evaluations,



practical issues remain, hampering actual evaluations. For one thing, it is often not straightforward to provide a sufficiently sensitive and specific quantification of the impact of the disease and/or treatment on the three criteria. Evaluations of new therapies can be further complicated due to the increased use of combination therapies, in which a new drug is used in combination with existing therapies and evaluation may need to take into account the combined impact of the combination therapy.

To increase the sensitivity of value evaluations, other value elements could be considered, such as specific (vulnerable) target populations (e.g. pregnant women, children, ...), disease rarity, age, savings in other areas of healthcare (other than drug expenditure) or areas beyond healthcare and innovation.

An example of a concrete policy to take vulnerable target populations into account is reflected by the fast track procedure for pediatric indications for drugs with existing adult indications. The policy includes shorter procedure timelines and an exemption to the usual price reductions for increased sales volumes. In essence, this is a practical example of target group preference.

Disease rarity as such may not be a value element to consider above and beyond traditional value elements. However, disease rarity may impose particular challenges in expressing or quantifying traditional value elements, both from a disease and treatment context.

Taking into account age may have important consequences for disease areas. For instance, in those areas which are of particular importance in the elderly, like oncology, the evaluation of 'value' may be influenced by the high age of the target population (hence assigning less value). There is disagreement as to whether this may play a role at all.

Demonstrating savings in other areas of healthcare, and even more so in areas beyond healthcare, requires particular evidence, which is in practice often difficult to generate. Furthermore, savings generated (or predicted to be generated) should likely not directly and entirely translate into proportionally higher medicine prices, but rather be shared between manufacturer and payer. Nevertheless, a study performed by Els Schotte⁴ demonstrated, based on published evaluations of reimbursed drugs, that there is an observed preference for reimbursing drugs realizing savings in the healthcare budget, including in areas other than the pure drug budget.

"True" innovation may present a value of interest and there is general agreement that this should be rewarded. Nevertheless, in some cases, repurposed existing therapies are relaunched as "new" drugs in specific indications. In those cases, typical value protecting mechanisms and rewarding, notably for OMPs, may need to be limited. A more refined definition of "innovation" may help identifying those medicines whereby innovation as such deserves to be rewarded.

⁴ Els Schotte, Een onderzoek naar mogelijke factoren die een impact kunnen hebben op de terugbetalingsbeslissing van geneesmiddelen. Master thesis, UGent, 2009.



2.1.2 Quantification of value elements

Summary statements

Question	Agreement
Cost-effectiveness analyses should be mandatory for OMPs	++
Cost-effectiveness analyses should apply to OMPs, but with modified	+
thresholds	
Some value elements, relevant for OMPs, are more difficult to quantify	
using current tools in price and reimbursement, such as cost-	+++
effectiveness, budget impact or patient-reported outcomes	

Legend: Agreement (+++: unanimous; ++: significant ($\geq 80\%$); +: moderate ($\geq 60\%$)); **Disagreement** (---: unanimous, --: significant ($\geq 80\%$); -: moderate ($\geq 60\%$); No majority agrees or disagrees ($\mathbf{0}$)

Discussion - Quantifying value

The appreciation and quantification of value is a particular challenge for OMPs and especially for medicines for ultra-rare diseases, due to the difficulties to obtain solid evidence by the time of submission for reimbursement. Value of OMPs should typically be considered from an individual patient perspective; i.e. in terms of what the current disease burden is for patients and what the expected benefit is of the new treatment in addressing this burden.

In order to better understand how the different elements of value play a role at the disease level, an exercise was performed within the INAMI in the context of the Art. 25 "unmet medical need" program. The exercise was designed to establish a ranking of the unmet need for a set of disease areas. The framework consisted of a sort of MCDA in which multiple criteria were included and weighted to obtain the final ranking. The ranking was found to be fairly robust to changes in weighting. However, comparing acute and chronic diseases in one effort and with one instrument was found to be more difficult.

The KCE has been working⁵ on validating the methodology used. Though the current exercise was demand-driven (i.e. driven by products seeking reimbursement under the "unmet medical need" program), it could also be performed outside of a product context. A possible critique on the exercise is that it was solely focusing on disease aspects and not on the effects of the potential treatments of these diseases. Ideally, a ranking exercise should focus on the net effect of disease impact and treatment availability: i.e. prioritizing those treatment areas where unmet need is high while existing treatment set is low.

The quantification of the (impact of a drug on) quality of life presents a clear challenge. Basing quantification on expert advice (be it patient or healthcare practitioner) remains a subjective appreciation rather than an objective quantification. The typically used EQ-5D tool is a rather generic and non-specific tool, often lacking sensitivity and specificity. It is often criticized for not capturing all the elements that really matter to patients.

Improving quality of life measurements requires further development or refinement of existing tools. Whether the most appropriate approach consists of developing a range of

⁵ KCE Report 272A

disease-specific or more context-aware generic tools remains a subject of debate. Disease specific tools are more adapted for detecting relative differences in quality of life relevant in a specific disease context, but typically yield results which are difficult to compare across disease areas and disease-specific tools. Generic tools allow cross-domain comparison, but typically lack sufficient sensitivity to disease-specific relevant improvements. Developing generic tools with sufficient sensitivity across disease areas and which can be validated in different disease areas represents a clear challenge.

It is important to consider the perspective of evaluation and to be sufficiently broad in the assessing potential value, e.g. consider (i) patients and caregivers; (ii) healthcare payers; (iii) society. Value from the broad perspective can be of particular importance for some drugs and it should be possible to take this into account. It should, however, be noted that demonstrating value beyond direct patient value (such as saving resources in the health care system) requires sufficient evidence to support this value (which may be difficult to collect) and that realizing this value may itself require investments (e.g. moving from hospital to home care requires sufficient home care infrastructure and support). These additional investments could be included in the drug's budget impact analysis.

Discussion - Cost-effectiveness

For OMPs, submission of a cost-effectiveness analysis (calculation of an Incremental Cost-Effectiveness Ratio - ICER) is currently not mandatory. In reality, the CRM appreciates calculation of an ICER. In case an ICER is not presented, experts sometimes approximate a "dummy ICER", or consult reimbursement applications in other countries where an ICER was presented. There might be value in more formal ICER submissions in the assessment for OMPs.

If current procedures were to change to include mandatory ICER calculation for OMPs, several elements should be factored in.

For instance, when calculated, OMPs can be confronted with high(er) ICER values (in comparison to some drugs in more prevalent indications) in combination with relatively minor budgetary impact (due to smaller target populations). There is, however, debate amongst the roundtable participants whether or not the relatively low budgetary impact or OMP designation should be factored in when appraising calculated ICER values. Some participants feel low budgetary impact or OMP designation should not translate into different ICER appreciation. Other participants feel that some incentive is required for manufacturers to develop drugs in small populations with difficult to demonstrate or less cost-effectiveness. Using modulated ICER thresholds could be a tool to allow for this.

Unmet need could also play a role in higher ICER thresholds as is the case in the U.K.

A note on pricing

The meeting participants recognize that given the small target population, drug prices for OMP's are higher, but also agrees that drug pricing suffers from a lack of transparency^{6,7}. Using purely value-based pricing, i.e. basing price solely on the willingness to pay for health benefit, is felt to hold the risk of driving manufacturer's prices as high as possible, rather than being justified on required return on investment. Hence, there is need on more transparency of costs, thereby acknowledging that better value should also be rewarded. The FOD Economic Affairs, which is competent for reviewing drug prices, could play a role. Nevertheless, true cost transparency in a costplus pricing method may be elusive and other techniques may be of use (such as demand-based modulated ICER pricing).

For future drugs with high prices and/or high ICER values, the horizon scanning performed by KCE can help to initiate an early dialogue between manufacturers and payers. A similar platform initiative exists on the EU level (MOCA).

2.1.3 Value assessment

Discussion

The Belgian evaluation procedure first considers the evaluation of value, before the evaluation of the economic implications. The value evaluation procedure consists of a combination of value *assessment* (i.e. quantification of value) and value *appraisal* (i.e. evaluation of the quantified values). Meeting participants found the appraisal part of the reimbursement procedure (i.e. the "subjective" interpretation aspect), to be important – even though they agree strengthening the assessment ("i.e. the "objective" quantification of value) fueling the appraisal is important. A pure assessment based procedure, as in the UK for instance, is found to be less desirable than a procedure in which experts are able to provide an opinion/interpretation of assessment.

Evaluation and appraisal of drug and disease context for price and reimbursement requires an extremely broad set of expertise. In practice, it is not always straightforward for the CRM (commission for the reimbursement of medicines) members to consistently and coherently perform evaluations. Formally, academic CRM members represent the institution they are selected from, and as such are required to inform themselves within their institution with respect to the different areas of expertise required for specific evaluation dossiers. Stimulating coordination meetings between university representatives prior to meetings of the CRM could result in a more coherent and informed academic point of view.

In practice, additional support in performing the evaluations may be of use in the preparation of assessments for CRM appraisal. One possible approach would be to have assessments performed by a committee of (internal or external) experts and the appraisal performed by a committee of stakeholders.

⁶ Simoens S. Pricing and reimbursement of orphan drugs: the need for more transparency. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases 2011, vol. 6, no. 42.

⁷ Picavet E., Morel T., Cassiman D., Simoens S. Shining a light in the black box of orphan drug pricing. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases 2014, vol. 9, no. 62



The CRM currently already involves an external (disease) expert for Class I and OMP submissions. Involving disease experts may introduce potential conflicts of interest, as disease experts are often involved in clinical trials.

Likewise, involving patients may be of considerable value, but their involvement should be carefully considered as it may create a subjective conflict of interest (e.g. patients will usually deem interventions for their condition to be of value). Finding patients willing and able to contribute to evaluations may be challenging, especially for drugs in less prevalent indications. The role of patients is nevertheless crucial, notably with respect to providing disease experience context (documenting and assessing unmet medical need and drug impact on the unmet need) and input for establishing reimbursement criteria. Hence the meeting participants believe that patients should be heard and consulted but that they should not be directly involved in the actual decision making or prioritizing. Civilians (non-patients) may however be involved in determining priorities.

In the value assessment process, an increased 'filter' role of the EMA is requested: EMA registration procedures should be more critical in assessing the added value of a new intervention, rather than shifting this responsibility towards the national levels. A possible step forward would be that the EMA provides an appraisal of the size and clinical significance of the added therapeutic value of a new OMP. It should be pointed out that though HTA expertise may be organized on EU level, HTA is a distinct discipline. EMA's primary function is marketing authorization; even if EMA-experts may provide useful insights, HTA expertise is different and requires other experts.

Finally, there should be room for publicly funded trials, adhering to the same standards as industry sponsored research, to fuel new indication applications. This requires a change in legislative context.



2.2 Dealing with uncertainty

2.2.1 Managed entry agreements

Summary statements

Question	Agreement
Uncertainty on value should be considered while making abstraction of	_
budgetary reality	•
Dealing with budgetary and value uncertainty requires different	_
approaches	T
There is merit in careful consideration of the nature and typology of	+++
uncertainty in considering the need for its management	****
The cost or complexity of generating additional data should be balanced	++
against the additional value they contribute	***

Legend: Agreement (+++: unanimous; ++: significant ($\geq 80\%$); +: moderate ($\geq 60\%$)); **Disagreement** (---: unanimous, --: significant ($\geq 80\%$); -: moderate ($\geq 60\%$); No majority agrees or disagrees ($\mathbf{0}$)

Discussion

In case of insufficient evidence at the time of submission for reimbursement, additional data should be required once a medicine is in the market. Indeed, a lot of data is still lacking at that time and important concerns often remain regarding uncertainty on claimed efficacy or effect.

The collection of real-world data can go hand in hand with outcomes-based market access agreements. The current 'Art. 81 contracts' offer a framework for managing uncertainty, including through integration of real-life data. As such, they lower the threshold to reimbursement through the creation of a "safe" temporary reimbursement. Nevertheless, proper follow-up of data collection, including defining consequences in terms of price & reimbursement should be guaranteed to avoid Art. 81 contracts to offer no more than a false sense of security. If claimed value cannot be demonstrated, authorities should be able or should apply the possibility to de-reimburse products. Furthermore, it is unclear whether temporary reimbursement schemes manage to provide answers to uncertainty at time of initial assessment; other than to provide temporary budget savings (~26%; MORSE report 2014).

2.2.2 Real-life data collection & data governance

Summary statements

Question	Agreement
Real-life data collection should be organized from a disease point of	++
view rather than from a product point of view	
Real-life data collection should be organized by the manufacturer	+
Real-life data collection should be organized by the authorities	+++

Legend: Agreement (+++: unanimous; ++: significant ($\geq 80\%$); +: moderate ($\geq 60\%$); Disagreement (---: unanimous, --: significant ($\geq 80\%$); -: moderate ($\geq 60\%$); No majority agrees or disagrees (**0**)



Discussion

In order to guarantee the quality of the collected data, provide meaningful insight and effective grounds for re-evaluation, a well-defined data collection protocol is required, based on the specific questions it needs to address. Such data protocol should minimally include:

- A clear description of the type and nature of uncertainty that the data collection protocol should address;
- A clear description of the specific questions that should be answered in light of the type and nature of uncertainty that is to be managed;
- An indication of the most appropriate form of data collection to support answering the specific questions posed;
- For each parameter to be considered
 - An overview of the main causes of uncertainty related to this parameter;
 - An appreciation of the importance of reducing the uncertainty on this parameter, e.g. a sort of "uncertainty index";
 - An indication of the adequate follow-up time needed to address the uncertainty.

There is a relationship between the data needed in this re-evaluation process and the data needed in respect to pharmacovigilance. This relationship/synergy should be better explored.

Proper data governance is needed to ensure quality of data collection at a reasonable cost as real-life data collection on efficacy and effect requires data collection from healthcare practitioners and may require collecting data from patients. Private practices should not be lost sight of, as not all (rare disease) patients are necessarily routinely seen in the hospital or expert center setting.

To ensure cost-effective data collection and manage data quality, data collection tools should integrate with day to day working tools of the physicians. Furthermore, data collection efforts should be aligned on (i) integration with international data collection efforts; (ii) concentrating expertise in reference centers; (iii) the inclusion of peripheral hospitals (and private practice) through networks.

Data collection on OMPs indeed transcends national boundaries and should ideally be organized on the European level. Nevertheless, in the absence of EU data collection protocols and frameworks, pragmatic, coordinated and concerted national data collection is necessary. Collaboration on registries is included in the BeNeLuxA protocol, in which other countries have expressed an interest.

Data collection can be organized from a product, disease or broader perspective. The potential disparity of ongoing product-driven efforts results in solutions that may scale poorly, or may be hampered by practical and methodological issues limiting their exploitability in a broader context. Mitigating this risk can be done either by organizing data collection from a broader perspective (disease perspective, or even across diseases, for instance across all OMPs), or by providing a clear framework in which the different bottom-up initiatives can be plugged to increase interchangeability, transparency and quality.



Part of data governance is data ownership/financing. Different models are possible, such as:

- Public-private partnerships, e.g. as set-up for biologicals: a database managed/owned by an expert group, providing access with differing levels of transparency, taking into account patient/product confidentiality governed by a data board. Experience shows industry is willing to pay for access to certain types of information.
- Trusted third parties (TTP), e.g. registry in oncology. The TTP should have the legal means to coordinate the study and be able to bring relevant parties together. The IMI-EMIF is working on providing such a platform.
- | Public infrastructure, supported by private funding: e.g. in Italy pharmaceutical companies fund the development of data registries developed by payers.

With respect to data integration, there is an ongoing effort to standardize EPD (electronic patient dossier) systems to integrate with a central data interchange platform (healthdata.be). This data platform is also designed to form the link with international data sharing initiatives. Standardization is to be gradually stimulated over the course of several years through requirements to meet industry (HIMMS) standards.

2.2.3 Re-evaluation

Discussion

The re-evaluation after a period of data collection is similar to the type of evaluation performed at the time of initial reimbursement. Based on an assessment of the data collected a re-appraisal should be performed forming the basis of a potential price & reimbursement revision. Thereby it is important to take into account again the nature and type of uncertainty, and the specific questions that needed to be addressed and the parameters that needed to be collected (as was specified in the protocol). As for the original evaluation performed at the initial reimbursement, the re-assessment can be supported by external expert (groups) providing assessment input for appraisal by the CRM experts.

The impact of the evaluation may be defined on individual patient or population level. In most cases, rather than ending reimbursement of a product, an "optimization" is likely to occur, for instance refining the target population or reimbursement conditions. The implications of data collection for reimbursement warrant further consideration. Revisions in reimbursement conditions can pose ethical problems, for instance in case a drug is found to be effective in only a segment of the initial target population. Better measures should be in place to anticipate on such situations.

Ideally, the assessment process should integrate all relevant stakeholders who are responsible for the uncertainty. These include:

- Manufacturers (responsible for demonstrating the effect of the product);
- Healthcare experts (responsible for the correct prescription and use of the product);
- Patients (e.g. part of the uncertainty could be related to compliance, or to assess reallife impact).

Dealing with uncertainty is a shared responsibility in which industry, payers and healthcare practitioners should work together to combat uncertainty.



V Conclusions

Our conceptual framework demonstrates the potential to engage different stakeholders for a constructive discussion on the principles of price and reimbursement of innovative therapies in general, and OMPs in particular. Separating evidence from context and structuring discussion on 4 key elements (value, uncertainty, budget and sustainability) allows to focus discussion on each of these elements on their own merit.

At the basis of our framework, the Belgian landscape analysis delineated the existing boundaries and challenges. Stakeholders recognize the specificity of OMPs. This specificity is – to some extent – taken into account in price and reimbursement evaluations. However, no specific tools for integration of value elements other than simple cost-effectiveness analyses are routinely used in price and reimbursement evaluations. The submission of a cost-effectiveness analysis is, at present, not mandatory for OMPs. As such, OMP specific elements of value are most often implicitly taken into account. Explicit inclusion of patient-specific metrics is not straightforward, both from the evaluator's and the submitter's perspective, due to the lack of standardized tools and limited feasibility of a fully quantitative analysis, reinforced by the rarity of OMP conditions. In general, for evaluation of OMP value in its broader context, involvement of external experts is required. There is, however, no clear consensus or support of patient and healthcare practitioner expertise.

Leveraging our 4-element framework, this context was discussed extensively during the roundtable. Differing views on elements of value, their quantification and assessment, and on dealing with uncertainty through managed entry agreements were discussed. These were built on participant responses on a set of statements queried in a preparatory survey and fleshed out through subsequent one-on-one phone interviews.

Though stakeholders were explicitly invited to discuss their personal, rather than their institutional, views, our proof-of-concept suggests that using a similar platform in a more formal context may be feasible and constructive. Ensuring continued access to innovative therapies while safeguarding sustainability and maximizing value, requires the possibility to engage in open and constructive dialogue on the principles underlying price and reimbursement procedures with different stakeholders. Our approach demonstrates how a structured approach may assist in providing a platform to engage on.

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Appendix A: Landscape Analysis Methodology

I Data collection strategy

The research phase data collection strategy consisted of 4 complementary searches: a structured PubMed search, a targeted web search, a targeted stakeholder search and a supplementary quantitative web search. Data collection was performed in August 2016.

I Structured PubMed search

Published literature constitutes the backbone of the landscape analysis. PubMed was searched using a combination of Mesh and regular terms and search results were restricted to publications dating from the last 10 years (2005 – 2015). The following search strategies were used:

- Search terms: Rare diseases [Mesh] AND Belgium;
- Search terms: Orphan drugs [Mesh] AND Belgium.

Articles identified using either of the search term combinations were scanned, first looking at abstracts only, additionally evaluating the full text and were included in the landscape analysis if relevant information on any of the 10 principles was identified. This process finally resulted in the inclusion of 59 articles in the landscape analysis.

2 Targeted website search

This involved specific searches covering stakeholders identified prior or during the landscape analysis:

Websites of organizations involved or potentially involved in the reimbursement procedure; e.g. FAGG, RIZIV/INAMI, patient organizations, ...

- Websites of the insurance funds;
- Websites of political parties;
- Belgian government coalition agreement;
- Policy plan of the Belgian Minister of health;
- Published questions and answers of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives.

Targeted websites were searched for any relevant information relating to orphan drugs or rare diseases and manually vetted for inclusion. This process finally resulted in the inclusion of 19 distinct web pages.

3 Targeted stakeholder search

For individuals identified prior or during the landscape analysis, a specific Google search was performed in 3 languages:

- "Individual name" + "weesgeneesmiddelen";
- "Individual name" + "médicaments orphelins";
- "Individual name" + "orphan drugs".

The first page of search results was analyzed. Each identified source was additionally checked for cross-references with other stakeholders. Search results were complemented with an additional Twitter search.

4 Supplementary quantitative web search

All sources identified in any of the previous search approaches were checked for relevant quantitative data. Data sources identified were then checked for the most recently available data. Additional quantitative data was obtained from the 2012 RIZIV/INAMI MORSE report.

II Data processing

The raw data desk research results retained from the different search approaches was processed by extracting relevant information. The extracted information was captured in several data extraction sheets. For each relevant element extracted, the following information was registered: date of the search, organization/journal, title, year, website, author(s), people involved, general information of the source and for the website search also whether the data source related to national or international data. These were collected in combination with the actual extracted information to provide context and background for processing.

Data extracted was grouped in different data extraction sheets. A first data extraction sheet covers qualitative data retaining specifically to the 10 principles, an overview of relevant statements found in party programs for most Belgian political parties and an overview of the searches per stakeholder. A second data extraction sheet covers any quantitative data collected during the course of the desk research.

Additionally, contact info for identified stakeholders was collected. Finally, an high-level overview of the price and reimbursement procedure currently applicable for OMP was provided.

All data identified was finally summarized into a single overview excel. This overview omits the contextual information provided in the more detailed data extraction sheets in favor of a more compact and presentable overview of statements presented per stakeholder.

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Appendix B: MCDA Framework Overview

I MCDA frameworks specifically for orphan drugs

Name	Date	Туре	Country	Validated framework			
TVF	2012	European Commission	Europe	No			
Hughes- Wilson	2012	Publication in JoRD	Europe				
Sussex	2013	Publication in Value in Health	EU	Yes, by industry stakeholders			
Fedyaeva	2014	Conference abstract	Russia				
Paulden	2014	Publication in Pharmacoeconomics	International				
Schey	2014	Poster presented at ECRD 2014	International	Yes, validated against drug average annual cost			

II MCDA frameworks for non-orphan indications

Name	Date	Type	Country	Validated framework
Thokala	2012	Publication in Value Health	International	
Kanavos	2013	Working paper of LSE (London School of Economics)	International	
Tanios	2013	Publication in International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care	International	Survey (not a framework) compiling criteria used by policy and clinical decision-makers
Endrei	2014	Letter to the editor of Value in Health	Hungary	
Williams	2014	Publication in Journal of Market Access & Health Policy	Europe	Yes, tested by payers and payer advisors in the UK, Germany, Spain
Wahlster	2015	Publication in Health Research Policy and systems	Germany	Yes, validated by a mix of non- industry stakeholders
ESMO	2015	Publication in Annals of Oncology	Europe	
ASCO	2015	Publication in Journal of Oncology	International	Yes



III Summary of criteria used in existing MCDA frameworks

			D	oo: c	i				0 to - C	\D	ر مورد	io	
		U	n sb	ecif	C				on C	D sp	recii	IC	
MCDA criteria	Hughes-Wilson	Sussex	Fedyaeva	Paulden	Schey	TVF	Kanavos	Tanios (survey)	Endrei	Wah-lster	Williams	ESMO	ASCO
Impact of the disease													
Disease rarity	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		
Disease severity (mortality/survival)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Disability and disorders resulting from the disease (morbidity)		✓	✓				✓			✓	✓		
Unmet need/available alternatives	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Identifiability /size of target population				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Impact on quality of life					✓				✓		✓		
Social impact on patients and carers*		✓	✓										
Impact of disease upon the distribution of health in the population				✓					✓				
Disease economic burden								✓					
Impact of the disease - prioritisation based on	popu	latio	n cha	aract	erist	ics							
Age of target population (very young or elderly)					✓			✓					
Low socioeconomic status								✓					
Patients in productive age								✓					
Women of reproductive age								✓					
Remote communities								✓					
People avoiding risky behaviour								✓					
Impact of the new technology													
First in class													
Clinical efficacy, impact on life expectancy		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magnitude of treatment benefit	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Response rate						✓							
Type of medical service (preventive, curative, disease modifying, etc)								✓		✓		✓	✓
Impact on quality of life of patients			✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	
Social impact on patients and carers (includes impact on productivity)*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Safety/toxicity		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Quality of evidence						✓		✓		✓	✓		
Endpoints selected (eg: OS vs PFS, etc)												✓	✓
Impact of the new technology													
Treatment-free intervals													✓
Uniqueness of indication	✓				✓								
Drug innovation		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					
$ \ \hbox{Direct impact: cost of treatment / budget impact} \\$			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Cost-effectiveness				✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Impact on healthcare system (eg: impact upon the distribution of health in the population)				✓			✓	✓					



			_		•								
		0	D sp	ecif	IC				on C	D sp	ecif	1C	
MCDA criteria	Hughes-Wilson	Sussex	Fedyaeva	Paulden	Schey	TVF	Kanavos	Tanios (survey)	Endrei	Wah-lster	Williams	ESMO	ASCO
Intervention cost to patients								✓					
Impoverishing impact on patients								✓					
Impact on forgone health services								✓					
Other decision factors													
Impact on specific patient groups								✓					
Convenience of administration					✓						✓		
Feasibility of diagnosing the disease				✓									
Feasibility of providing the treatment				✓							✓		
Socioeconomic policy objectives / Health care Priority				✓				✓	✓	✓			
Industrial and commercial policy considerations				✓									
Legal considerations				✓				✓					
National and international reputation									✓				
Other decision factors													
Manufacturing complexity	✓				✓								
Recent development in the therapy area of interest													
Reimbursement in other countries											✓		
Level of research undertaken	✓				✓						✓		
Level of effectiveness uncertainty	✓				✓			✓					
Follow-up measures of monitoring	✓				✓								
Patient co-payments													✓
Reach whole target population/region								✓					
Risk of inappropriate use								✓					
Organisational requirements								✓					
Other decision factors													
Clinical guidelines (eg impact of new treatment on guidelines or current recommendations)								✓		✓			
Skill requirements								✓					
Barriers to uptake								✓					
Mission of the healthcare system								✓					
Cultural acceptability								✓					
Stakeholder pressure/interest								✓					
Congruence with decision								✓					
Capacity to stimulate research								✓					
Partnership and collaboration among stakeholders								✓					



Appendix C: Stakeholder questionnaire

© h	ic	t						PLEA	ASE COM	1PLETE	THIS SURVEY
Q1. Please indic	cate the	extent	to whi	ch you i	feel:			Strong Moderate	_		
						ļ	ļ	Neutral ↓	1	1	
Access to C	OMPs ir	ı Belgi	um is:		Sufficient		0				Insufficient
Access to C	MPs ir	ı Belgi	um is:		Sustainable		0				Unsustainable
Access to C	OMPs ir	ı Belgi	um sho	uld be:	A priority		0				Not a priority
ments below	2. Please indicate whether you (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) disagree or (d) strongly disagree with each of the statements below. Please also provide any comments, in particular regarding your motivation to agree or disagree with the provided statements.										
		•									
OMPs have					n comparison wi	th drugs	in more p	revalent in	dications	:	
Some value	eleme		evant fo		s, are not formall	y consid	ered or va	lued by cu	irrent pric	ing and	value as-
	П	П	0	П							
	eleme	nts, rele	evant fo	r OMP	s, are more diffic oudget impact or	_			tools use	d in price	e and reim-
						I	1				
	approp	oriate t		objectiv	rely appreciate th			eads to a l	ack of co	nsistency	and transpar-
		0	0								
The lack of appropriate tools to objectively appreciate the value of OMPs leads to a lack of consistency and ency of pricing for different products (price decision from authorities)								and transpar			
										isistency	and transpar-
	cing for	differe		lucts (p						isistency	and danspa-
There is a r	need for	an objects co	pective v	value fr		Ps, cover	ring three	immediat f a produc	e needs: t's value;	(1) establ (2) provid	ish a reference de a means for
There is a r	need for ue elem	an objects coduct c	pective v	value frade should	rice decision from	Ps, cover	ring three	immediat f a produc	e needs: t's value;	(1) establ (2) provid	ish a reference de a means for



6	hi	C	t						PLEA	ASE COI	MPLETE	THIS SURVEY
Q1. Please	indica	te the	extent	to whic	ch you	feel:			Strong Moderate Neutral	$\overline{\downarrow}$		
Acces	s to ON	MPs in	ı Belgi	um is:		Sufficient		0				Insufficient
Acces	s to ON	MPs in	ı Belgi	um is:		Sustainable						Unsustainable
Acces	s to ON	MPs in	ı Belgi	um sho	uld be:	A priority		0				Not a priority
ments	(2. Please indicate whether you (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) disagree or (d) strongly disagree with each of the statements below. Please also provide any comments, in particular regarding your motivation to agree or disagree with the provided statements.											
		•		ļ		1						
OMPs	have s					n comparison wi	th drugs i	in more p	revalent ir	ndication	e	
		0	0	0								
	value e ent too		nts, rele	evant fo	r OMP	s, are not formal	ly conside	ered or va	lued by cu	urent pri	cing and	value as-
		0	0	0								
						s, are more diffic oudget impact or	-	-	_	tools use	ed in price	and reim-
buiser	nem, s					auget impact of	Patient-1	eponeu o	utcomes			
The la	ck of a			ools to		ely appreciate th	e value o	f OMPs 1	eads to a l	ack of co	nsistency	and transpar-
						rice requested by						
			0	0								
						ely appreciate th			eads to a l	ack of co	nsistency	and transpar-
			0	0								
of wha	ıt value	elem	ents co	ould an	d shoul	amework for OM d be included in antification of the	the prese	ntation o	f a produc	t's value;	(2) provi	de a means for
		0	0	0	0							
	er	onec				andatory for OM	rp.					



© h	ic	t			PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY
	The state of the s		Signal Signal		The second secon
	0	0	0	0	
Cost-effect	iveness	analys	es shou	ıld appl	y to OMPs, but with modified ICER thresholds
			0		
Multi-criter	ria deci	sion an	alysis f	framewo	orks should be considered for OMP value assessment
Q3. In your opi	nion, w	hat spe	cific el	ements	of value could be considered particular to orphan medicinal products?
	w. Plea atemen	se also its.	provide	e any co	agree, (b) agree, (c) disagree or (d) strongly disagree with each of the state-omments, in particular regarding your motivation to agree or disagree with the
	1	ļ	1	ļ	1
Uncertaint	U		old be		red while making abstraction of budgetary reality
Chertaint					The same same appropriate or outgettery resury
For OMP		ainty d			ely impacts price and reimbursement evaluations
10.01110,					
Dealine					
Dealing Wi	ın oud	gerary a	nd val	ie unce	rtainty requires different approaches
		0			
There is me agement	erit in o	areful o	conside	eration (of the nature and typology of uncertainty in considering the need for its man-



hict		PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY								
, ,		A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE								
	n should be organized	d from a disease point of view rather than from a product point of view								
	a should be organized	d by the manufacturer								
	Real-life data collection should be organized by the manufacturer									
Real-life data collection	should be organized	d by the authorities								
		a by the minorities								
		and date should be belonged enjoyed the additional value show contribute								
The cost of complexity	or generating addition	onal data should be balanced against the additional value they contribute								
Q5. What opportunities/stre or budgetary risk uncert		r static versus dynamic risk management approaches in dealing with value								
Q6. What threats/weakness budgetary uncertainty?		tic versus dynamic risk management approaches for dealing with value or								
Do you have any additional	comments or sugges	stions?								
	THANI	K YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!								