Assessing patient and societal unmet health-related needs: the NEED (Needs Examination, Evaluation and Dissemination) assessment framework
Context

- No common definition of unmet needs
- Priorities not based on unmet needs
- Economic rationale

Misalignment of innovation with public health needs
Aim and objectives

**Aim:** Move towards a more needs-driven healthcare policy and innovation

**Objectives:**
- Create a framework with criteria for identifying patient and societal unmet needs
- Test framework on two selected health conditions in Belgium: melanoma and Crohn’s disease
The NEED Framework: Methods

- Systematic reviews
- Stakeholder and expert consultations
- Discussion with Minister and Federal health agencies
- Internal discussions
Scope of NEED Framework

Health Condition

Patient level

Societal level

Health-related needs

Health needs
Healthcare needs
Social needs

Medical needs

Health-related needs

Health needs
Healthcare needs
Social needs

Future
The NEED Framework

Dimensions
- Patient needs
- Societal needs
- Future needs
- Equity (transversal)

Domains
- Health needs
  - Health needs
  - Healthcare needs
- Social needs

Criteria (23)
Examples
1) Impact on general HrQoL
2) Impact on life expectancy
3) ...

Indicators (43)
Examples
1.1) Average EQ-5D-5L score
1.2) Years lived with disability (per case)
2) Years of life lost (per death)

Measurement methods
- Literature review
- Patient survey
- Patient interviews
- Expert opinion
- Database analysis
The NEED Framework
Dimension: Patient needs

5 criteria:
Impact on:
- general HRQoL
- physical health
- psychological health
- autonomy
- life expectancy

4 criteria:
- effectiveness of Tx
- quality of care
- burden of current Tx
- accessibility of care

4 criteria:
- impact on social life
- impact on education
- impact on work
- financial consequences
The NEED Framework
Dimension: Societal needs

4 criteria:
- frequency
- AMR
- transmissibility
- health burden on informal caregivers

2 criteria:
- preventability
- value for money of SoC

2 criteria:
- productivity losses
- environmental impact of SoC
The NEED Framework
Dimension: Future needs

1 criterion:
Future burden of disease

1 criterion:
Future economic burden
The NEED Framework
Dimension: Equity

- Distribution of unmet needs among population subgroups (e.g. low socioeconomic status)
- Applies to all dimensions and domains
Application of the NEED Framework: Methodology

- Disease description
- Patient survey
- Patient interviews
- Expert opinion
- Literature & database review

UNMET NEEDS
Application of the NEED Framework: Examples from case studies

Impact on health-related quality of life

**Crohn’s disease**

- **Anxiety/depression**
- **Pain/discomfort**
- **Usual activities**
- **Mobility**
- **Self care**

**Melanoma**

- **Anxiety/Depression**
- **Pain/discomfort**
- **Usual activities**
- **Mobility**
- **Self care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health care needs</th>
<th>Quality of care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crohn’s</strong></td>
<td>20% diagnosed &gt;1 year after first consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Melanoma</strong></td>
<td>50% waited &gt;3 months before consulting</td>
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<th>Social needs</th>
<th>Impact on work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crohn’s</strong></td>
<td>45% reduced work or stopped working</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Melanoma</strong></td>
<td>20% reduced work or stopped working</td>
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Discussion

- Applicability of the framework to other diseases and populations
- Validation of the framework at the EU level
- Rating of unmet needs
- Data collection across EU countries
Thank you for your attention!

https://www.health-needs.eu