

Research Priorities for Exacerbations of COPD

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

exacerbations of COPD

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

Exacerbation prevention is a major goal of COPD guidelines. Even when used optimally, however, interventions to prevent exacerbations are incompletely effective and there have been no new therapies to treat exacerbations in decades. Progress can only occur through research. Respiratory research has been neglected in relation to disease burden and there is a strong argument for prioritising research that addresses the questions most important to those living with the condition given that research agendas set by academics or the pharmaceutical industry do not necessarily reflect the priorities of patients and health services.

What was the objective?

to bring together patients, carers, and clinicians as equal partners in Priority Setting Partnerships (PSP) to systematically collect uncertainties and prioritise resulting research questions

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

February 2019 - April 2021

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

JLA method

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: establishing the PSP and agreeing on project scope. Step 2: gathering and identifying uncertainties: using a survey, 1912 individual responses were submitted. Step 3: data analysis: summarising and processing uncertainties to develop over-arching research questions, 791 submissions were in-scope and were reduced to 59 overarching research questions, 51 of 59 overarching research questions were judged to be unanswered on checking for robust evidence and these were taken through to interim ranking. Step 4: interim prioritisation: using a web survey, participants asked to rank questions, resulting in shortlist of 16 research priorities. Step 5: final priority setting workshop: to reach consensus on the top ten questions, rankings and deliberations

Which stakeholders took part?

Survey: 571 participants: 418 (73%) COPD patients, 39 (7%) carers, 110 (19%) clinicians. Interim ranking: 191 participants: 44% patients and carers

How were stakeholders recruited?

No information provided.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.