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Are journal editors a barrier to publication of real world evidence?

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Objectives and Methods

Value of RWE and how it compares to other types of studies like randomized trials

Education and/or resources journal editors provide or would find useful for peer reviewers and/or authors

Journal Editors

General medicine

Specialty medicine

Health policy

Semi-structured interview

In-person Roundtable Discussion

9-item Survey

Highlights of Results

	Total	General Medicine	Specialty Medicine	Policy
Total Solicited (%)	79 (100)	15 (18.9)	48 (60.8)	16 (20.3)
Interview (%)	15 (18.9)	2 (13)	5 (33)	8 (53)
Survey (%)	17 (21.5)	2 (13.3)	6 (12.5)	9 (56.3)
Roundtable (%)	8 (53)	1 (12)	2 (25)	5 (63)

Value of RWE

- *RWE Studies have Value and are Complementary to RCTs*
- *Characteristics defining high-quality RWE are similar to those defining high-quality RCTs*

RWE-specific Resources or Tools for Peer-reviewers and/

- *Peer-review challenges exist but are not unique to RWE*
- *Editors rely on existing peer reviewer knowledge of and provide little in the way of formal training*
- *Editorial software may inhibit journal editors' ability to match manuscripts to the appropriate peer reviewers*

Discussion

“We always get fewer RCTs than we want, so maybe we have a lower bar. But for RWE, we know we will get enough papers, so “was there an interesting question” becomes more important” - RT participant

- Discussion question: Have you observed this? What impact might it have on the “hierarchy of evidence” in HTA?

“RWE offers the benefit of samples that are truly representative of the target population, and that reflect the impact of interventions in the quote-end-quote real world, not in the idealized setting of a RCT where the implementation is tightly controlled and the outcome measures are carefully ascertained”- Interview participant

- Discussion question: RCTs completed internationally are often accepted by decision-makers. Should RWE also apply internationally? When or when not?

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This research was supported by the
National Pharmaceutical Council