

Principles for Value Assessment

Policymakers and industry stakeholders are discussing policies that will have a significant impact on what treatments patients and persons with disabilities can access. Many of these involve the use of discriminatory standards that undervalue the lives of older adults, patients, and persons with disabilities.

Value Our Health supports assessing the value of any treatment using tools that are consistent with the goals of personalized, patient-centered medicine and do not discriminate against people based on age and/or with disabilities, chronic conditions, and diseases. Adopting the following principles can help ensure that value-driven health care works for all Americans.

- Value frameworks should meaningfully **acknowledge diversity and differences among patients and people with disabilities**, avoiding methods that obscure these differences. Summary measures such as the cost-per-quality-adjusted-life-year, which embody a "one-size-fits-all" mentality of value, should not be used.
- Value frameworks **should not be misused by payers and policymakers to limit patient access** to necessary medical treatments.
- Value frameworks should be **developed using transparent processes and methods**. This includes making as much easily understandable information available to patients as necessary for them to fully understand the framework's foundational assumptions.
- Value framework developers should **meaningfully engage with patient and provider organizations** to achieve consensus on the assumptions, definitions, and underlying questions. Patients and people with disabilities should actively participate in determining the outcome of any value assessment.
- Value frameworks should **rely on a range of sound, patient-centered sources of evidence** such as data registries and patient-centered outcomes research and should articulate the evidence on which the assessments are based as well as the limitations of the evidence in order to improve health decisions.
- Value frameworks should **address costs and benefits that matter to the patient**, including costs such as lost time at work, risk of disability, and the potential need for caregiving.
- Pharmaceutical companies should endeavor to **produce evidence on the value of treatments based on patient-centered outcomes** to support value assessment.

