

RISK-SHARING SCHEMES WORLDWIDE: A LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OF HEALTH OUTCOMES-BASED REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENTS

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OBJECTIVES: To assess and analyze the number, type, and extent of risk-sharing agreements worldwide based on published literature.

METHODS: A structured literature review using predefined search criteria was conducted to identify references to, or descriptions of, health outcome-based risk-sharing agreements within peer-reviewed and trade publications between the years of 2000–2010. The identified publications were categorized by strength of evidence (i.e., systematic or non-systematic), and then aggregated by type of agreement, technology, and companies involved within the agreement. Analysis was completed to demonstrate commonalities among identified agreements as well as their unique aspects.

RESULTS: Five database and publication sources were reviewed using 17 predefined search terms. The literature review suggests that many risk-sharing agreements are not published and those that are vary widely in design, scope, and intent. The search resulted in 61 abstracts which identified eight individual published risk-sharing schemes. While all identified agreements link improvements in health outcomes with reimbursement, definitions of what constitutes improved health outcomes, as well as the type of evidence required to prove that improvement, varied dramatically. The published risk-sharing schemes were from the UK (n = 3), United States (n = 3), France (n = 1), and Sweden (n = 1). There is more publically available information on agreements outside of the United States, but it is unclear the extent to which this is due to greater transparency in reimbursement versus a reflection of more risk-sharing agreements.

CONCLUSIONS: Health outcomesbased risk-sharing agreements offer the potential for both benefit and frustration to manufacturers and payers alike. The ability to review progress within this field to-date and attempt to offer trends toward best practices will be key to the long-term viability of these novel reimbursement efforts. Despite the heterogeneity of agreement types, methods, and foci, successful utilization of these agreements has been achieved and could potentially offer a guide for replication in future use.