

# COMET News



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## COMET responds to EMA consultation on asthma

The EMA issued a consultation document about paediatric asthma in June this year, which included recommendations about outcomes. As a result of the on-going systematic review we are undertaking to identify studies that aim to determine which outcomes or domains trials should measure, we have identified three studies with the goal of developing a core outcome set for trials in children with asthma. The three studies involved different stakeholder groups and used different methodological approaches, but the resulting core outcome sets included two common outcomes that we were able to suggest should be included in the asthma guideline and in future studies of paediatric asthma. We were also able to suggest that these studies and their findings should be recognised in the guidance document. This is a great example of COMET–EMA interaction and the potential impact of core outcome sets to help improve health and social care.

## Outcome measures in rheumatoid arthritis randomised trials over the last 50 years

This recently published review assesses the uptake of a core outcome set in rheumatoid arthritis trials. A review was carried out of 350 randomised trials for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis identified through *The Cochrane Library* (up to and including September 2012 issue). Reports of these trials were evaluated to determine whether or not there were trends in the proportion of trials reporting on the full set of core outcomes over time. Since the introduction of the core set of outcomes for rheumatoid arthritis, the consistency of measurement of the core set of outcomes has improved, although variation in the choice of measurement instrument remains. Click here to read the full paper in *Trials*: <http://www.trialsjournal.com/content/14/1/324>.

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Cochrane Colloquium Quebec, September 2013

Last month, Professor Paula Williamson was delighted to run the COMET workshop in Quebec at the 21<sup>st</sup> Cochrane Colloquium. Twenty-five people took part in the workshop that comprised a mixture of presentations and participant discussion. The workshop focussed on the value of core outcome sets for systematic reviews, including how core outcome sets can be used to help review authors present their findings clearly and succinctly. The workshop was structured to facilitate discussion between participants, providing a unique opportunity for reviewers to consider why the choice of outcomes is so important to their reviews.

If you are interested in attending a COMET workshop, please visit the [website](#) where we include details of upcoming events.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Clinical Trials Methodology Conference Edinburgh, 18-19 November

We are pleased to announce that we have been invited to present a session at the Clinical Trials Methodology Conference next month. The session will be all about core outcome sets – why, what and how.

For more information visit [www.methodologyconference2013.org.uk/](http://www.methodologyconference2013.org.uk/)

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials

[www.comet-initiative.org](http://www.comet-initiative.org)

### Funding and support

We have received funding from the MRC MRP (Medical Research Council Methodology Research Panel), grant number MR/J004847/1; and European Union Seventh Framework Programme ([FP7/2007-2013] [FP7/2007-2011]) under grant agreement 305081.



On 20 - 21 June 2013, the COMET Initiative held their third meeting in Manchester, with 175 attendees from across the world discussing the development and application of core outcome sets (COS) in many areas of health care. Trialists, systematic reviewers, health service users, journal editors, research funders and policy makers heard about recently developed COS, stakeholder perspectives, current research relating to COS, 'Beyond COMET' or ideas about the future of COS, and outcomes work from other initiatives. In addition, three workshops explored the following topics: Methods for determining what to measure in a COS; Instrument selection, or how to measure the domains in a COS; Qualitative methods for involving patients in the development of COS. Finally, 35 posters created a great opportunity for conversations.

COMET III provided a lively forum for debate about the methodology, standards and science of the development of COS for effectiveness trials. While there is strong agreement that this work will improve the quality of health research, certain challenges were explored throughout the meeting. Participants discussed unresolved issues in COS development, including the determination of the domains to include, how to measure these domains, and how to identify and involve different stakeholders in the process.

The success of COMET III lay in the people who attended. Participants came from diverse perspectives, but all are driven by a wish to improve health by improving research. There remains much to be done, and the COMET Initiative is committed to moving this work forward by facilitating and promoting relevant research and developing standards for the methods of COS development. For those interested, full audio of the speakers' presentations will be available soon at [www.comet-initiative.org](http://www.comet-initiative.org). Details of COMET IV in 2014 will also be posted soon. We hope to see you all there for more exciting news and debate!

## A report from COMET III, Manchester June 20-21 2013

