

COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS RESEARCH



Although pivotal in demonstrating a technology can work, decision makers are often more concerned with whether the technology will work in the “real world” when used in their own healthcare setting and when used on patients in their own jurisdiction.

Definitions vary in scope and content, however Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) broadly assesses how well a technology (e.g. drug, device, program, service, product, instrument) performs under “real world” conditions in terms of safety, effectiveness and cost.

PATH members have over two decades of experience in designing and conducting Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs). Since PATH primarily supports “context-specific” policy and decision making at the national, provincial and local level,

CER is the cornerstone of the trial-based studies designed and conducted at PATH. PATH’s pragmatic field evaluations are a major component of Ontario’s policy development program in “real world” effectiveness.

PATH conducts two types of CER studies: Conditionally Funded Field Evaluations (CFFE) studies, where coverage is provided temporarily while evidence is collected; and Diffused Evidence Development (DED) studies, where an evaluation is conducted on a technology that is already diffused and used in the healthcare system. The design and conduct of each of these types of studies are very different and PATH has extensive experience in both types of studies.

PATH can help provide consultative support in the design and conduct of CER studies or can play a more active leadership or collaborative role in either CFFE or DED studies. Our clinical trial coordination centre, electronic data capture facilities, data analysis expertise and our quality assurance program ensures the CER studies will be of the highest scientific quality.

PATH also has experience in developing literature based CER using direct or indirect comparison methods based on the current evidence available in the literature.