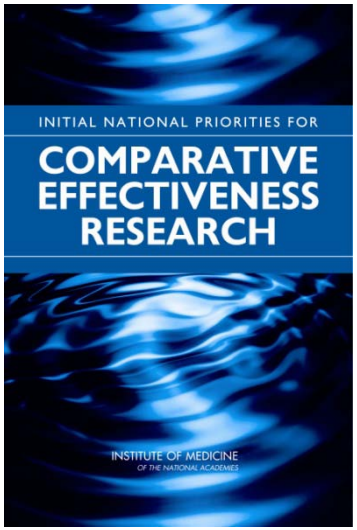
Institute of Medicine

Initial National Priorities for Comparative Effectiveness Research



Committee on Comparative Effectiveness Research Prioritization

Board of Health Care Services

Committee on Comparative Effectiveness Research Prioritization

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Charge to Committee:

Recommend national priorities for comparative effectiveness research to be conducted or supported by funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

- Obtain national input from a wide variety of stakeholders, to develop a list of no fewer than 50 priorities
- Define how these recommended priorities should be incorporated into a balanced portfolio
- Recommend priority actions for ensuring the infrastructure and workforce for a long-term, sustainable national CER enterprise

Committee's Definition of CER

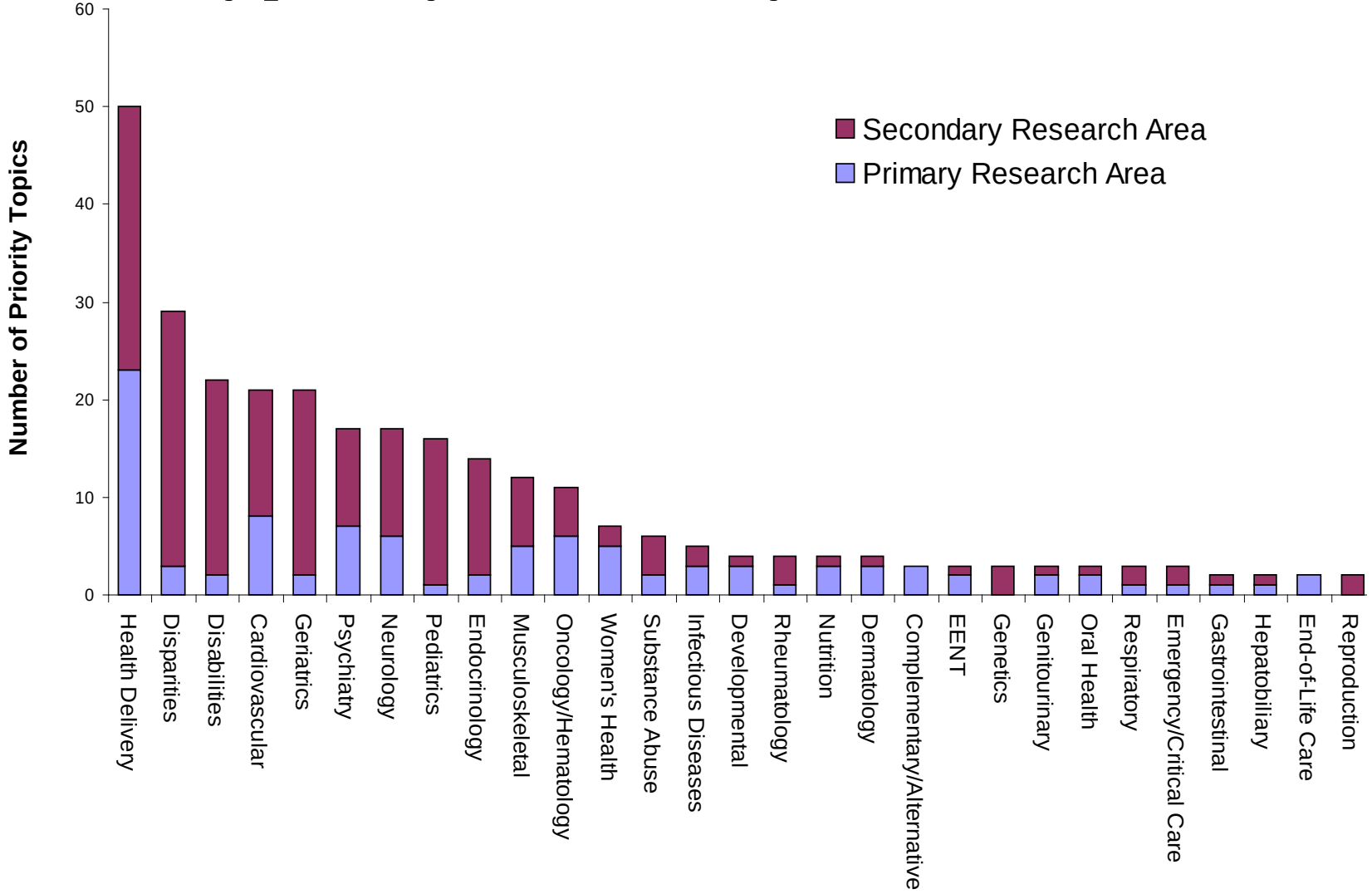
The generation and synthesis of evidence that compares the benefits and harms of alternative methods to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor a clinical condition or to improve the delivery of care.

The purpose of CER is to assist consumers, clinicians, purchasers, and policy makers to make informed decisions that will improve health care at both the individual and population levels.

IOM: CER attributes

- CER must assess a comprehensive array of health-related outcomes for diverse patient populations and sub-groups.
- Interventions compared may include medications, procedures, medical devices and technologies, diagnostic testing, behavioral change, and delivery system strategies.
- Requires the development, expansion, and use of a variety of data sources, research methods and standards to assess comparative effectiveness and actively disseminate the results.

Distribution of the recommended research priorities by primary and secondary research areas



Select Recommendations

- The HHS Secretary should establish a mechanism—such as a coordinating advisory body—with the mandate to strategize, organize, monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation and impact of the CER Program.

- The CER Program should fully involve consumers, patients, and caregivers in key aspects of CER, including strategic planning, priority setting, research proposal development, peer review, and dissemination.

- The CER Program should devote sufficient resources to research and innovation in the methods of CER, including the development of methodological guidance for CER study design such as the appropriate use of observational data and more informative, practical, and efficient clinical trials.

- The CER Program should help to develop large-scale, clinical and administrative data networks to facilitate better use of data and more efficient ways to collect new data to inform CER.
  - The CER Program should ensure that CER researchers and institutions consistently adhere to best practices to protect privacy and maintain security.

- The CER Program should promote rapid adoption of CER findings and conduct research to identify the most effective strategies for disseminating new and existing CER findings to health care professionals, consumers, patients, and caregivers and for helping them to implement these results in daily clinical practice.