**Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Questions Overview**

The goal of PCORI’s work is to determine which of the options available to patients (and those who care for them) work best and in what circumstances. To do this, PCORI funds Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) that includes patient engagement. CER questions should be based on well-documented evidence gaps as well as input from patient and other stakeholder groups.

**This overview will help you determine if your ideas are able to translate into CER questions.**

To decide if a question is CER, ask yourself if it is:

The next page provides a list of questions to help you determine if your ideas meet PCORI’s funding requirements, and address their merit review criteria.

Your partnership’s list of potential CER questions should be important to BOTH the research community AND the patient/stakeholder community. Questions must include:

Keep in mind that PCORI funds CER that answers key questions from the patient perspective, such as:

When transitioning from Tier II to Tier III you will need to determine the study population, evidence-based intervention, comparators, outcome, timeframe, and setting (PICOTS) within each of your CER questions.

See more about the PICOTS framework: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3430448/>.

In Tier III, your partnership will select a single CER question to develop into a Letter of Intent to PCORI and a general proposal or application.

**PCORI’s Funding Requirements**

If the answer is yes to one of the items below, you will want to revise or remove the CER question from your list:

**Additional Questions to Consider, Based on PCORI Merit Review Criteria**

These are questions you’ll seek to answer by the midpoint of Tier III. Knowing your answer to these items now may help you prioritize what to move forward with as you apply for larger funding from PCORI or other funders.

See more: <http://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/merit-review-process/merit-review-criteria>