Interpreting the value proposition of RWD/RWE data

The pharmaceutical, healthcare, and insurance industries have undergone a significant change in how they gather, analyze, and publish data over the past 25 years.

The **fast acceptance and development** of technologies that collect digital data that can be carefully selected, aggregated, and analyzed to produce very helpful and timely information, not just in the health sciences but in all facets of our life.

Real-world data (RWD) and real-world evidence (RWE) are becoming more and more popular as **useful sources of information;** thus, it is important to talk about the **quality of data and its analysis, research design, and transparency of reporting** to gain the **confidence and acceptance of decision-makers.**

Real-World Data (RWD)

RWD is the data relating to patient health status and/or the delivery of health care routinely collected from a variety of sources such as Electronic Health Records (EHRs), wearables, medical claims data, patient, and disease registries.

Real-World Evidence (RWE)

RWE is the clinical evidence about the usage and potential benefits, or risks of a medical product derived from analysis of RWD. It can be used to support Randomized Clinical Trials (RCTs)

This paper educates stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, policymakers, and patients, about the benefits of using RWD/RWE in healthcare decision-making. This information can be crucial for pharmaceutical companies to deep-dive into space and help them innovate better for the future.

Applications of RWD and RWE

RWD and RWE have diverse applications across healthcare research and decision-making.

- Safety and effectiveness of interventions
- Monitor real-world utilization patterns
- Comparing treatment outcomes
- Improved understanding of patient sub-populations
- Evaluate adherence and persistence to treatments

Strengths of RWD and RWE

RWD and RWE offer several strengths that can be valuable inputs to support in healthcare research and decision-making.

- RWD/RWE provides a larger and more diverse patient population, reflecting real-world clinical practice, which enhances external validity and generalizability of findings.
- It can help capture long-term outcomes, real-world safety data and real-world treatment patterns which are often challenging to obtain in RCTs.
- It can also generate evidence in a timely and cost-effective manner, as it utilizes existing data sources, reduces the need for resource-intensive prospective data collection.

Key considerations for using RWD & RWE

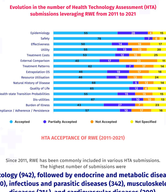
While utilizing RWD and RWE in healthcare research and decision-making, several key aspects should be considered

Data privacy and security
To be followed in accordance with relevant regulations and guidelines.

Study designs, statistical methods, and sensitivity analysis
To address potential biases and confounding.

Quality and completeness of the data
Data source should be reviewed to ensure it is fit-for-purpose containing complete and accurate information.

Collaboration among stakeholders
To ensure the appropriate use and interpretation of RWD and RWE findings.



Process timeline of RWD and RWE in the pharmaceutical industry

The pharmaceutical industry is heading towards increased utilization of RWD and RWE due to several factors:

Expanded regulatory acceptance

Regulatory agencies, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), have recognized the value of RWE in complementing traditional clinical trial data and have provided guidance on the use of RWE in drug development and regulatory decision-making. For instance:

Amgen Science got regulatory approval for a cancer drug based on single-armed Phase 2 study supported by RWE.

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