

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

CHAM 2015

Can Industry Data Improve the Health Care System?

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1. The American example: performance tracking using industry data

In the United States, hospital-acquired infection is an indicator used when calculating financing. It can be tracked via data provided by companies. Companies sometimes provide it for free. In Europe, health regulations currently prohibit such practices.

2. The European view of the use of industry data

The European Parliament is aware of the need to amend legislation to adapt to changing practices in health care. To do so, industry data is essential.

4. The importance of real-time data

One of the benefits of real-time data is the ability to limit or eliminate inventory shortages and eradicate treatment emergencies.

5. The transparency of industry data in clinical trials

The transparency of the results of clinical trials – positive or negative – is enshrined in European law. Transparency is also required for drug approvals. With this in mind, it is essential that pharmaceuticals should provide the data that oversight and regulatory agencies need.

6. Balancing the need for data transparency with the need to protect patient data

Although patient data must be transparently accessible, it must also be protectable. Having said that, data protection measures must also not hamper research and innovation. The requirement to obtain the patient's consent to use personal data may be too restrictive. The alternative would be to obtain once-for-all consent to obtain data. This would remove the need to obtain the patient's consent in a case that involves a wider public interest, and would define that concept.