

Innovation and Value Initiative Foundation (IVI) Request for Proposals

Project Name: Elicitation of RA patient preference weights for multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) using IVI-RA model

RFP number: 2019-1

Available funding: \$50,000

Bid Deadline: September 30, 2019

Background:

The IVI Foundation (IVIF), which has operated as the Innovation and Value Initiative (IVI) since being founded in 2016, was created to advance the science and improve the practice of value assessment in healthcare. In a current landscape marked by diversity, complexity, rapid innovation and high demand for affordability, IVIF seeks to advance methods and models that improve the credibility and relevance of value assessment to real-world patient experience and localized decision-making. IVIF brings together healthcare leaders from academia, patient organizations, payers, life sciences companies, providers, and delivery systems to advance approaches to value that fit the American context.

Scientific, technological, and clinical advances are driving a revolution in patient care – but spending on healthcare also continues to increase. Most observers agree that change is needed in order to link healthcare spending to value rather than volume, but determining how to make this link quickly leads to debate and disagreement. What defines value? Value to whom? And how do we measure it?

To address these questions and bridge research gaps, IVI's goal is to develop a platform that facilitates robust and rigorous patient-centered value assessment of health technologies tailored to the needs and interests of individual decision makers. As part of its Open-Source Value Project (OSVP), IVI develops and shares flexible, open-source simulation models in specific diseases. These models serve an important intellectual purpose by generating debate about appropriate methods, providing a laboratory to test new approaches, and engaging diverse voices in shaping how value should be measured. To date, IVI has released two separate disease-specific OSVP models, which simulate the benefits, costs, and risks of sequences of treatment in Rheumatoid Arthritis and EGFR+ Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (the IVI-RA and IVI-NSCLC models, respectively).

To assess value in a way that is both comprehensive and relevant to a given decision maker, approaches beyond conventional cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) are necessary. For example, there are important drivers of value from the patient perspective—for example, impact on ability to work, transportation costs, impact on caregivers—that are not easily captured in a cost-per-QALY analysis. Similarly, value from employers' perspectives may be shaped by impacts on overall productivity or rates of absenteeism. Furthermore, the degree to which these and other components of value matter varies from one decision-maker to another.



In addition to CEA, both OSVP models provide the ability to calculate and compare value using multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA). MCDA provides useful insights, but incorporation of MCDA into OSVP models has highlighted several challenges and needs for additional research. First, while numerous considerations were raised in IVI’s research and discussions with patients, it is often challenging to include attributes (for example, burden on caregivers) due to lack of treatment-specific evidence or other issues. Second, MCDA results are a function of the relative importance of individual attributes to the decision-maker. While OSVP models allow users to customize the attribute weighting used in MCDA, the models do not currently provide recommended weights or support elicitation of users’ preference weights.

As a transparent “laboratory” for testing different approaches to value assessment, OSVP models can generate valuable insights into the usability of different approaches and their implications for real-world decision making. For example, does MCDA lead to different conclusions than CEA? Does heterogeneity in decision-makers’ preferences lead to different decisions? To answer these questions, however, empirically estimated preference weights for a representative population are needed.

Overview of RFP:

Subject of RFP:

IVI is seeking proposals to estimate attribute-specific partial value functions and preference weights for use in multi-criteria decision analysis using the IVI-RA model.¹ Results should represent common, or expected, preferences for a given stakeholder group or decision-maker type. At a minimum, results must include partial value functions and preference weights for the overall RA patient population. Additionally, results should include partial value functions and preference weights for other decision-maker types (e.g. health plans). Results that can be stratified based on distinguishing characteristics within RA patient sub-populations are strongly encouraged.

Results of this study will help answer the following questions:

- How do treatment allocation decisions for RA in the general population differ when using MCDA instead of conventional CEA?
- In what ways and to what extent do heterogeneous preferences within a given population lead to different resource allocation decisions?

¹ The IVI-RA model currently includes the following attributes for MCDA: quality-adjusted life years (QALYs); health care sector costs; number of serious infections; administered by IV infusion; administered by injection; administered orally; years since FDA approval. In the existing IVI-RA MCDA module, attribute values are converted to a common scale (0-100) using a simple linear partial value function to translate scores, which assumes a linear relationship between performance on the original scale of a given criterion and the common scale. An additive model is then used to calculate an aggregate score based on weights assigned to each attribute by the user. For a full description, see the IVI-RA model documentation at: <https://innovationvalueinitiative.github.io/IVI-RA/model-description/model-description.pdf>



Intended use:

Final results will be used by IVI to:

- Conduct analyses using the IVI-RA model related to the research questions above;
- Create “presets” for MCDA analysis in IVI-RA Value Tool web applications; and
- Inform additional research concepts in patient preferences, other methods, and concepts integral to developing modernized approaches to value assessment.

In addition, results may be used to generate reports, research briefs, and submissions to academic conferences and peer-reviewed publications. All research products and related publications will be branded as IVI, but attribution of work completed by the chosen Vendor will be included in all publications. In addition, members of Vendor research team will be included as authors on publications where authorship guidelines permit.

IVI is committed to transparency, and all research produced by IVI is available in the public domain under a Creative Commons license. This includes research protocols, data collection instruments, data sets, and final reports (except where data are acquired from a third party under a data use agreement or personally identifiable information is collected). All such materials generated as part of the project will be posted on IVI’s [Open Science Framework site](#).

External collaboration:

The Vendor will have access to IVI’s principal scientists responsible for design of the IVI-RA model and will be expected to seek their input in a manner that both leverages their knowledge effectively and uses their time efficiently.

IVI places high priority on partnership with relevant stakeholders—especially patients—in any research it conducts. As this project primarily focuses on patient preferences, the study should include outreach to and demonstrated collaboration with one or more RA-focused patient groups. Feedback should be sought related to: general research design and survey or interview approaches (including resources or past research conducted on the subject); sample selection and recruitment of participants; and interpretation and face-validity of results. Partner organizations may be specified based on the Vendor’s existing relationships or, if no existing relationships exist, Vendor may indicate that it will collaborate with IVI to identify a suitable partner.

Scope:

Each proposal is expected to include the following key components in its scope:

- Identification and recruitment of partnering patient organization
- Background research and literature review to support research methodology
- Detailed research protocol
- Development of data collection instrument(s)
- Participant recruitment
- Data collection
- Analysis
- Development of final report



Deliverables:

Project proposals should include (at minimum) the following key deliverables:

1. Confirmation of partnership with patient organization
2. Research protocol
3. Data collection instrument(s)
4. Complete final dataset
5. Both preliminary (topline) and final results
6. Final research report

Proposers should also include such activities as meetings to plan and monitor project progress, milestones for deliverable development, and presentation of final deliverables and/or review process with IVI.

Proposal Requirements

Format

Proposals should not exceed 7 pages, excluding requested attachments, and use a standard font size of 12 (size 10 for tables and figures). Include page numbers for all narrative pages. Supporting citations should be included as footnotes.

Content

Each proposal should consist of the following sections:

1. **Cover page (not included in page count):** Title, RFP number, and contact information for the bidder (“project leader”) including company/organization name, key contact name, title, address, phone, and email.
2. **Specific aims and motivation:** Specific aims and a motivation statement, including the team’s rationale for bidding
3. **Background:** Provide background on the RFP topic, existing research in the area, and relevant methods. This should illustrate the respondent’s familiarity with the proposal content.
4. **Proposed approach and methodology:** Please describe the specific methodological approach(es) the team would employ if selected as the grantee, including:
 - a. Overview of the proposed approach to achieving the project outcomes and deliverables.
 - b. Description of the methodologies you will employ in data collection, analysis, and development of project materials and key deliverables.
 - c. Statement of why the proposed methodological approach is the best choice for meeting the goals of the RFP.
 - d. Strengths and limitations of proposed approach.
5. **Deliverables:** Provide an overview of the final deliverables as you understand them based on the contents of this RFP, including a discussion of any challenges to completing the deliverables as outlined in this RFP.



6. **Requirements from IVI:** Discuss any resources that may be required outside of the work outlined in this submission to complete the project deliverables. This section should include a description of how the project team plans to collaborate with IVI principal scientists – at what stages, in what fashion, and for how much time.
7. **Short institutional profile(s) and profiles of anticipated team members:** Provide a description of relevant past experience and qualifications of the applicant organization(s) and team members, including prior work directly related to the specific project scope described in this RFP. Include brief descriptions of the key staff or consultants that will work on the proposed project, including associated roles and responsibilities. You may attach biosketches and/or CVs up to 4 pages for key personnel as appendices (not included in page count).
8. **Budget and timeline (not included in page count):** Present a detailed timeline of milestones and activities that ensure successful completion of project deliverables by the stated deadline. Budget should include separate estimates of the following line items for each milestone or activity:
 - a. Personnel costs
 - b. Non-personnel costs
 - c. Other expenses (e.g. consultants, sub-contracts, data acquisition)
 - d. Institutional indirect fees
9. **Budget justification (not included in page count):** In no more than 3 pages, please explain all items in your cost proposal in sufficient detail for IVI to fully understand the pricing, fee structure, and rationale.
10. **References and Letters of Support (not included in page count):** Provide two references that can speak to qualifications and experience related to the proposed scope of work. Please include reference contact information (name, title, organization, phone, and email) as well as a brief description of relevant past work with the contact. If possible, please also include letters of support from potential partner organizations, including patient organizations.

Eligibility

All non-profit, for-profit, government, and academic institutions are eligible to apply, as are individual applicants.

Funding

The maximum funding available is USD \$50,000, including direct and indirect costs. IVI will execute agreements with a single entity, which will have the right to sub-contract if necessary.

Timeline of RFP and proposed project

Date	Action
September 30, 2019	Proposals due
November 1, 2019	Selected bidder notified of award
December 1, 2019	Funded project work begins
March 15, 2020	Draft report and deliverables due
April 15, 2020	Final report and deliverables due



Further Instructions to Bidders

Closing date for submission of proposals

Proposals must be received by IVI no later than *September 30, 2019* to be considered for the project. Proposals should be submitted via email in one consolidated PDF file at the email address: rfp@thevalueinitiative.org with the subject line “RFP Submission: [your name] ([RFP number]).”

Questions and Requests for Clarification

Prospective bidders may contact IVI with any requests for clarification and interpretation of the RFP or questions related to contracting or technical matters via email at rfp@thevalueinitiative.org. All inquiries should be received by IVI no later than 7 days prior to the deadline for submission, after which time requests for clarification may not be addressed. All questions and responses will be posted on IVI’s website.

Amendment of the RFP

IVI may, at any time before the closing date, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a (prospective) bidder, modify the RFP by written amendment. Amendments could, inter alia, include modification of the project scope or requirements, the project timeline expectations and/or extension of the closing date for submission. All prospective bidders that have submitted a Proposal with regard to the RFP will be notified in writing of all amendments to the RFP and will, where applicable, be invited to amend their Proposal accordingly.

Clarification of a submitted Proposal

IVI may, at its discretion, ask any bidder for clarification of any part of its submitted Proposal. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in price or substance of the Proposal shall be sought, offered, or permitted during this exchange.

Award Process

Proposal review and selection

IVI Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation and seeks to identify consultants and partners based on fair market value for the proposed scope of work. Proposals will be reviewed by IVI leadership and/or members of its Board of Directors based on the following:

1. Alignment with IVI research goals
2. Applicant capacity and experience
3. Strength and appropriateness of proposed approach
4. Budget and cost justification
5. Overall quality and completeness of submission

IVI reserves the right to:

- Award the contract to a bidder of its choice, regardless of budget so long as below the stated limit;



- Accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and without any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for IVI's action;
- Award the contract on the basis of IVI's particular objectives to a bidder whose proposal is considered to be the most responsive to the Organization's needs and the activity concerned;
- Not award any contract at all. IVI has the right to eliminate bids for technical or other reasons throughout the evaluation/selection process. IVI shall not in any way be obligated to reveal, or discuss with any bidder, how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relative to the evaluation/selection process or to state the reasons for elimination to any bidder.

NOTE: IVI is acting in good faith by issuing this RFP. However, this document does not obligate IVI to contract for the performance of any work, nor for the supply of any products or services.

IVI's right to enter into negotiations

IVI reserves the right to enter into negotiations with one or more bidders of its choice, including but not limited to negotiation of the terms of the proposal(s), the price quoted in such proposal(s) and/or the deletion of certain parts of the work, components or items requested for under this RFP.

Contracting and payment

Final award amount and contracted scope will be negotiated with the selected proposer and will be subject to final approval by the IVI Executive Director and Board of Directors. Within 30 days of receipt of the contract, the successful bidder shall sign and date the contract and return it to IVI according to the instructions provided at that time. The selected bidder will enter into a fixed fee, deliverables-based contract with an agreed upon payment structure.