

**PCORnet Obesity Observational Study: Short- and Long-term Effects of Antibiotics on
Childhood Growth
Gathering Stakeholder Feedback to Improve Engagement Process**

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Introduction

Using an innovative, multi-site network called PCORnet, the PCORnet Antibiotics Study utilizes electronic health record data from 37 healthcare institutions across the nation. The study explores the effects of antibiotic use during the first two years of life on BMI at ages 5 and 10. An Executive Antibiotics Stakeholder Advisory Group (EASAG) was formed to work alongside the scientific team to carry out the study's objectives. Members include parents, caregivers, pediatricians, pharmacists, investigators, and advocacy/health systems leaders.

Methodology

In March 2017, EASAG facilitators surveyed stakeholders to evaluate their involvement and engagement. Goals included:

- Determining stakeholder satisfaction;
- Informing the study's engagement process; and,
- Documenting lessons learned to benefit future studies.

EASAG members reviewed the draft survey and provided feedback prior to finalization.

Results

The survey garnered a 100% participation rate. Respondents reported feeling satisfied with their engagement. More than half reported having some decision-making authority and ability to contribute meaningfully to study objectives. All respondents agreed stakeholders engaged in open, respectful communication. Some stakeholders indicated their expertise could be better utilized, while some were unsure how to best lend their skills to support the study.

Conclusions

The high response rate may have been due to the participatory process of developing the survey. Findings will be shared broadly to inform stakeholder inclusion in scientific studies, sustain engagement, and enhance future PCORnet stakeholder engagement. Special consideration and effort will be devoted to better integrating stakeholders' technical skills and ensuring all stakeholders feel they have meaningfully contributed.