OBJECTIVES
Scientifically reviewing knowledge about the costs, benefits, and acceptability of patient access schemes, flexible pricing schemes, and risk sharing agreements for medicines.

METHODS
A systematic literature review was conducted using PubMed for the period January 1998 to April 2011. In addition, non-English literature, Medline, non-Medline databases, and experts were used to identify relevant papers.

Main results
Costs and benefits vary widely depending on the characteristics of the scheme. Frequently, based schemes are easier and faster to implement than outcome-based schemes which are more complex and therefore suffer from higher uncertainty about the overall balance of costs and benefits.

Benefits and costs identified from the literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Cost/Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payors</td>
<td>Increased treatment options and potential health improvements</td>
<td>Increased costs of treatment options and potential health improvements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers</td>
<td>Increased knowledge in the management of the disease</td>
<td>Increased costs of providing additional knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients</td>
<td>Early entry requirements and follow up of patients</td>
<td>Potential costs of providing early entry requirements and follow up of patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Potential new treatments and increased treatment options</td>
<td>Increased costs of potential new treatments and increased treatment options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions
There is a lack of consensus on the welfare consequences of the schemes and their social desirability, partially explained by the evidence available.

Presented at the PRU Conference, 29-30 September 2011, Vienna, Austria

LITERATURE REVIEW ON PATIENT ACCESS SCHEMES, FLEXIBLE PRICING SCHEMES AND RISK SHARING AGREEMENTS FOR MEDICINES

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Definitions
- Payor: A health insurer that contracts with manufacturers to purchase medicines.
- Provider: A practitioner (e.g., doctor) who provides care to patients.
- Patient: The individual who receives the care and experiences the outcomes.
- Industry: The pharmaceutical sector that develops, manufactures, and distributes drugs.

Risk Sharing
- Risk sharing agreements (RSAs) are contracts between payors and providers that reduce the payors' financial risk through linking FME (financial risk) to clinical evidence or to health technology.
- Risk sharing schemes (RSS) are contracts between payors and providers that reduce the payors' financial risk through linking FME (financial risk) to clinical evidence or to health technology.

Economic Evaluation
- Economic evaluation is the process of comparing costs and benefits of different interventions or policies.
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Access
- Access is the availability, affordability, and appropriate use of medicines.
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Value
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