

**RESULTS:**

Four Gaussian distributions were built and associated to four GRADE levels. When an indicator has a low GRADE level, its performance value will vary in a broader way according to the linked Gaussian distribution.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

This study showed the importance of applying the GRADE system to indicators' sources of information because this can modify the overall computation of parameter weights and performance, proportionally to their robustness.

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## PP58 Hasty HTA: Delivering Health Technology Assessments Under Severe Time Constraints

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Health technology assessment (HTA) is a resource-intensive decision support tool that is typically structured around a set of defined domains. Sometimes urgent requests for HTAs arise that may be subject to very short timeframes, creating unique challenges. This study aimed to describe some of the options for carrying out a "hasty HTA", and the impact of those options.

**METHODS:**

We recently completed a HTA for the Department of Health in Ireland with a strict 2-month deadline. We considered the impact of the short timeline using the project management triple constraint framework whereby the quality of a project is constrained by cost, scope, and schedule.

**RESULTS:**

When delivering HTAs within short timeframes the schedule is an inflexible constraint. Providing interim advice pending a full assessment may set a precedent, or may not be possible if capital expenditure is already entailed. Additional staff should enable research to be completed faster, although economies of scale may not fully apply. Frequently such resources are not readily available. The reduction of scope through the omission

of domains offers the best prospect of facilitating a short timeframe for a HTA. Scope may also be reduced through a less comprehensive analytical approach, but this creates a risk of reduced accuracy. Curtailing data collection and analysis is likely to increase uncertainty in the findings. Risk management is important when comprehensive quality assurance may not be possible.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Carrying out HTAs in short timeframes has implications for content, approach, and, potentially, quality. Agencies must consider how they can meet the needs of the decision maker without overly compromising accuracy or relevance. Due to resource constraints, the best approach is likely to be judicious changes to the scope to remove assessment elements that are unlikely to have a substantive impact on the decision.

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## PP59 Evaluating Reimbursement Applications With Decision-Oriented Evidence

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Our research group recently evaluated a minimally invasive surgical procedure in order to inform a reimbursement decision. The application for funding was designed around the study selection criteria from a single pivotal randomized controlled trial (RCT). The aim of this study review was to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of this minimally invasive surgical procedure, and document challenges faced in evaluating a technology based on a highly targeted population.

**METHODS:**

A systematic literature search of four biomedical databases was conducted (PubMed, Embase, Cochrane library, York CRD) up to 8 August 2017. Specific elements related to the population were patient age, together with level and duration of pain. Primary effectiveness outcomes included pain, patient reported quality of life, mortality and adverse events. The included RCTs were critically appraised against the Cochrane risk of bias tool. Meta-analysis was not