OP80 'Green Metrics' - Incorporating Environmental Dimensions In Health Technology Assessment

Tjerk Jan Schuitmaker-Warnaar (t.j.schuitmaker@vu.nl), Sevgi Fruytier and Callum Gunn

Introduction. Climate change as the result of human action and the risks it poses to human health are well established. In healthcare there is increasing attention to climate and environmental impacts of the use of medical and health technologies. As part of a lifecycle approach, health technology assessment (HTA) needs to take climate and environmental impacts into account. In 2020, the new definition of HTA added the dimension 'environmental aspects', with which the value of health technologies can be determined and assessed in terms of their impact on the environment. This led several HTA organizations to explore opportunities for including environmental impacts in HTA procedures. It is, however, yet unclear how many researchers and HTA organizations are already working on this sustainability dimension, in what way, with which (international) partners, and what they have achieved as of now. Furthermore, the complex relations between the climate crisis, environmental pollution, health and care are difficult to trace, and methods are scarce. In HTA, there is an increasing need for outcome measures that, in addition to clinical utility, effectiveness, efficiency or satisfaction, also quantify the environmental impact of medical interventions (i.e., green metrics).
Methods. We report on (i) a scoping of international (research) groups and (HTA) organizations that are working on green metrics; (ii) a literature review into the state of affairs with regard to metrics and methods; and (iii) an impact analysis of possible future inclusion of green metrics in HTA procedures. We supplemented a review of (grey) literature with interviews with HTA organizations pioneering with green metrics, and we have conducted a review of available scientific literature, yielding examples of incorporation of environmental aspects into HTA and reports on practical implications.
Results. Carbon dioxide emissions and pollution by the health sector are currently being explored as green metrics. Differences between direct and indirect environmental impacts complicate the evaluation.
Conclusions. Green metrics should eventually make it possible to assess sustainability in healthcare as part of a lifecycle approach.

OP81 Do Sustainable Healthcare Principles Inform Guidance Development? An Exemplary Case Study In Respiratory Care

Sarah Walpole (sarah.walpole1@nhs.net), Naba Khan, James Smith, Olga Rostkowska and Fiona Miller

Introduction. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2021, over 40 countries made commitments to low carbon, sustainable health care. Respiratory care provides a case study to explore how existing evidenced-based guidance can inform progress towards more sustainable care pathways and technologies. Our aim is to identify whether environmental aspects of health technology assessment (HTA) are referenced in guidance and the extent to which the four principles of sustainable health care (prevention, self-care, streamlining, and low carbon technology) are promoted in guidance.
Methods. Internet searches enabled identification of current national guidance on management of respiratory diseases in English, French or Polish. Guidances were reviewed to identify references to environmental aspects of HTA and recommendations that align with each of the four sustainable healthcare principles.
Results. Guidance on respiratory care is produced by varied stakeholders globally. Some principles of sustainable health care are frequently reflected in guidance to improve quality of care, but others are missed where environment sustainability is not considered. Reference to HTAs incorporating environmental impacts is lacking. There is limited engagement with the environmental impacts of inhalers in guidance. Guidance created by clinician groups (e.g., Greener Practice) and research networks (e.g., Centre for Sustainable Health Systems) has responded more quickly to the need to address sustainability concerns compared to guidance produced by national public bodies.
Conclusions. HTA organizations may need to take a broader perspective, incorporating environmental impacts in assessments. This could have an influential role in enabling evidence-informed guidance and development of sustainable care pathways and technologies. Limitations of our study were lack of evaluation of local guidance due to limited capacity, language restrictions, and subjectivity in assessing whether each sustainable healthcare principle was addressed in guidance. There may be limited transferability of our results to other specialties or settings. Further research on the sustainability impacts and relative merits of different health technologies and care pathways is required to inform HTA and guidance.

OP82 Patient Involvement In Health Technology Assessment

Lyazzat Kulembekova, Lyazzat Kosherbayeva (lyazzat.k@mail.ru), David Hailey, Adlet Tabarov and Anar Imanbekova

Introduction. Patients are increasingly involved in the decision-making process for health technology assessment (HTA), but the question of at what stage they can be involved is still controversial. In Kazakhstan, the HTA process began in 2010. Over the past 2 years, implementation of a project to develop a priority-setting tool based on evidence-informed deliberative processes has made it possible to discuss the participation of patients in HTA. We explored the possibilities of participation of patients or a patient-oriented group in the HTA process.
Methods. Structured interviews were held with eight people with interests in HTA. Two were representatives of universities, two from

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