

OP165 Health Technology Assessment And Public Health Priority Setting In China

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Introduction. Since 2009, China has initiated a national program on free provision of essential public health services. The national program has expanded both in terms of service categories and funding, showing China's great commitment to universal health coverage. However, with slowdown of public input in the health sector, the government decided to prioritize interventions and optimize reimbursement packages. Researchers in the China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC)—the Chinese national health technology assessment (HTA) agency were asked to design the tools to facilitate the decision process.

Methods. With multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) method, the researchers analyzed value dimensions in public health issues, and built an evidence matrix for the priority-setting decisions. Supported by HTA tools, they appraised interventions and services through literature review and field studies, and projected budget impact of potential adjustment decisions based on cost analysis results. A deliberative process of key stakeholder groups was taken, and their views were counted in making the final recommendations.

Results. Based on evidence review and scores of stakeholders' judgment, two public health service interventions were recommended for removal, and another two for adjustment (one for merger, one for optimizing care pathway). Cost estimation and potential budgetary impact were also analyzed to support financial decisions.

Conclusions. HTA and MCDA are key tools for defining the value criteria, evidence framework, and deliberative process for the essential public health program. However, lack of cost-effectiveness evidence hinders fine-tuned decisions on resource allocation. Continual health economic evaluation needs to be conducted in the near future.

OP168 The EUnetHTA Quality Management System: Development And Evaluation

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Introduction. One objective of the European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) Joint Action 3 (JA3) is to set up a quality management system (QMS) for joint work that serves as a standalone infrastructure for a sustainable European HTA-collaboration. Structures of the QMS (quality policy, processes and procedures, and organizational structures) combined with the measures of QM (quality planning, assurance, control and improvement) both ensure achieving the objective of producing high-quality HTAs.

Methods. Based on a thorough concept with involvement of a spectrum of EUnetHTA partners, re-evaluation, internal workshops and national expertise, the existing inventory consisting of procedures, templates, methodological guidelines and tools is

being refined, complemented and revised. Procedures are gradually being transferred into Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), seamlessly and chronologically covering all assessment phases. Supplemented by quality-control-checklists and templates these SOPs are linked to relevant guidelines and tools. The so-established QMS is subject to continuous improvement by recurrently applying the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA)-cycle. Members of the assessment teams are surveyed after the publication of each EUnetHTA-report (check-phase). Processed results lead to modification, maintenance and improvement of the inventory (act-phase).

Results. The majority of content has already been developed or revised and was already made available to the assessment teams to put to practical test. The survey results are systematically collected, processed and compiled. Derived from these results, a comprehensive report and a thorough list of improvement measures have been developed and will serve as a basis for further adaptations.

Conclusions. The establishment of structures of QMS and measures of QM both are supposed to assure high-quality HTA-reports for EUnetHTA and a possible permanent European collaboration on HTA after JA3 as proposed by the EU-commission's regulation proposal 2018/0018 (COD). The installed systematic data collection, processing and compilation mechanisms are a solid basis for the identification of future needs for developments.

OP169 Implementation Of A Quality Management System In The Spanish Network Of Health Technology Assessment

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Introduction. The Spanish network of health technology assessment (HTA) agencies (REDETS) is a collaboration of eight agencies, units and services, commissioned by the national and regional governments. The network coordinates work within a common methodological and work framework, guided by the principles of mutual recognition and cooperation. In 2016, a common self-assessment quality tool was developed for the implementation of an overall Quality Management System. Currently we are working on the second step that deals with actions about management, joint activities as a network, and organizational aspects of the network.

Methods. A structured search strategy in the main electronic databases and a manual search in websites of networks national and international agencies were carried out in June 2017, in order to gather previous knowledge and developed standards. Through the information included in this review, and with the collaboration of all members, a group of standards for REDETS was developed. Finally, standards proposed were discussed in a face-to face meeting until an agreement was reached.

Results. A proposal of 31 standards was put forward taking all the collected information. The aim of each standard was defined, and its level of compliance was specified. Those standards were grouped under nine quality criteria structured in four dimensions: (i) Responsibility and Resources, (ii) Performance and Membership, (iii) Procedures, and (iv) Relations.