A SINGLE ENTITY FOR HTA IN SOUTH AFRICA?

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Disclaimer

The ideas presented are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent those of any organization or group.

Presenter is currently employed at Sanofi Pharmaceuticals, but representing the International Society for Pharmaco economics and Outcomes research (ISPOR) today.
Pi in the sky is possible
My “definition” of HTA

Subscribe to the WHO definition:

"systematic evaluation of
• properties
• Effects
• and/or
impacts of health technology.
It is a multidisciplinary process to evaluate the
• Social
• Economic
• organizational and
• ethical issues of a health intervention or health technology.

The main purpose of conducting an assessment is to inform a policy decision making.

health technology: application of organized knowledge and skills in the form of medicines, medical devices, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of life.”

"health technology" means machinery or equipment that is used in the provision of health services, but does not include medicine as defined in section 1 of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965);

"health services" means –
(a) health care services, including reproductive health care and emergency medical treatment, contemplated in section 27 of the Constitution;
(b) basic nutrition and basic health care services contemplated in section 28(1)(c) of the Constitution;
(c) medical treatment contemplated in section 35(2)(e) of the Constitution; and
(d) municipal health services;
Several initiatives have looked at the possibility over time

1. 2000’s: National Steering Committee on health technology Assessment

   Three main documents emerged from the committee’s work
   • Department of Health: A Framework for Health technology Policies
   • Health Technology Assessment: Discussion Document on a Strategy for the Future
   • Department of Health: National Health Technology Strategy

2. ISPOR
   • Discussions on a common HTA platform started as early as 2012
   • 2 panel sessions in 2014 relating to a common HTA platform
   • Focused on the private sector
   • Using the “broader” understanding of HTA (including pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, equipment etc.)
“1. URGES Member States:
(1) to consider establishing national systems of health intervention and technology assessment”
Fragmented South African HTA - same but different

**PRIVATE SECTOR**
- Hospitals
- Tech Co’s
- Pharma

**PUBLIC SECTOR**
- Provincial
- National
- NHLS

**RESEARCH SECTOR**
- SAMRC
- University groups
- NGOs

- Different purpose
- Different baseline
- Different criteria
- Different thresholds
- Different input data
- Different costs
- Different implications
**Fragmented South African HTA – same but different**

### PRIVATE SECTOR

**Single technology HTA**

- Newly introduced tech
- Compared to existing practice
  - Cost Effective
  - Budget Impact
  - PMB Status of condition
  - Severity of illness

**REIMBURSEMENT / INCORPORATION INTO BENEFITS**

### PUBLIC SECTOR

**Programme wide HTA**

- Clinical Issue
  - Technologies available investigated
- Cost Effective = inexpensive?
- Budget Impact
- Applicability in the health system
- Severity of illness / public health impact

**ADOPT**
Fragmentation is not a small barrier for a “single entity”

- **PRACTICAL CHALLENGES**
  - Regulations
  - Guidelines (or lack thereof)
  - Baseline / comparator technology available
  - Supporting structures and systems
  - Skills availability – multidisciplinary

- **PHILOSOPHICAL CHALLENGES**
  - Social considerations
  - Ethical aspects
  - Attitudes to new technology

Tricky to negotiate but not impossible to deal with in time
Is a centralized entity the answer for HTA in SA?

- **REASONS WHY YES**
  - Prioritization of the most important technology for the country
  - Equity
  - Consistency of criteria / approach
  - Clarity and transparency?
  - Development of the discipline of HTA

- **REASONS WHY NO**
  - Differing priorities and needs for HTA
  - Fragmentation
  - Enormous undertaking
  - Skills are short
  - Understanding and appreciation in the public and media is still low – acceptability poor?
Gradual increase in remit – growth in NICE
Recent developments to watch

- International decision Support Initiative (iDSI) Partnership between NICE International, PRICELESS SA, HITAP Thailand, York University and others
  - http://www.idsihealth.org/

- Goal to: Share experiences, showcase lessons learned, and identify practical ways to scale technical support for more systematic, fair and evidence informed priority-setting processes.

- First Meeting in South Africa was in March 2015 to start to establish a network of HTA organizations in the country
Recent developments

- First Conference on 11 and 12 September
- Some Objectives: (paraphrased)
  - To promote the science and practice of HTA in the Southern African region in close collaboration with national, and provincial governments.
  - To build a thriving, independent association serving as the primary scientific and professional focus for all those who undertake and use HTA.
  - To support the development and use of HTA through exchange of information, scientific methods, expertise and ideas through meetings, publications, newsletters and other information services, educational and other activities.
Pie in the Sky?

Can still make a whole as the sum of its parts