HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT IN SA

SAMED 2015 CONFERENCE

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Health Technology Assessment

**Defined:** A systematic evaluation of quality, safety, efficacy, efficiency, cost benefit of health technologies

**South African Environment:** There are three different HTA methodologies which play a role in South Africa:
• HTA in the private sector where new technologies are assessed for efficacy and cost. Players in this field are consultants, private health care organizations, medical aid companies, suppliers etc. I will not deal with this sphere of HTA today

• HTA as practiced by organizations such as the HTA agency SBU in Sweden, INATHA and NICE, sometimes referred to as “macro HTA”

• HTA that is required in the procurement process for medical equipment, sometimes referred to as “micro HTA”
The Swedish HTA Agency (SBU) is an independent government agency for the **critical evaluation of methods used to prevent, diagnose and treat medical problems**. The SBU comprises a staff of about 30 people who organize and coordinate the work and disseminate the findings from the assessments. The SBU uses an active network of several hundred clinical and scientific experts who do the actual assessment.

**Heavily relies on: Publications from accredited journals.**

When an assessment is done the full spectrum of scientific research is covered, including:

- Device characteristics
- Safety
- Clinical efficacy
- Procedures associated with the use of the technology
- Human resources
- Financial implications of utilizing the technology

Hence the necessity for the extended network of experts and the staff to coordinate the research and assimilate and publish the findings.
Micro HTA must be applied in the procurement process for every medical device bought for a health facility, even at the level of a clinic.

The following HTA questions should be the basis of every medical device procurement:

• Do we need it?
• Who will use it?
• Where will we put it?
• What training is required?
• Can we afford it?
• What will it cost to run it?
• What is available? etc

Obviously when buying a stethoscope or patient scale for a clinic these questions are easily answered but when it comes to buying imaging equipment and sophisticated, expensive medical equipment the HTA process need to be more thorough.
The country needs a HTA agency that will:

- be Independent

- do Scientific based assessments

- do assessments that will support key decisions and policies in health and medical care
Proposed HTA structure: HT strategy

Figure 1: HTA Proposed Organisational Structure
Figure 2: Proposed process for outsourcing HTA work
Concluding Remarks….

• It is possible to have HTA agency in SA inclusive of various healthcare technologies
• A wide stake holder consultation will be necessary
• Existing International and local HTA agencies e.g (INAHTA) could be of value to the proposed Agency
• Collaborations with the newly formed SAHTAS
THANK YOU