Living Health Technology Assessments

LAURA WEEKS, PhD
Scientific Advisor
Disclosure

• Funded by federal, provincial, and territorial ministries of health.

• Application fees for three programs:
  • CADTH Common Drug Review (CDR)
  • CADTH pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR)
  • CADTH Scientific Advice
A multidisciplinary process that summarises information about the medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner. Its aim is to inform the formulation of safe, effective, health policies that are patient focused and seek to achieve best value.

eunethta.eu
How is HTA done?

Most HTA involves some form of the following basic steps:

• Identify assessment topics
• Specify the assessment problems or questions
• Retrieve available relevant evidence
• Appraise quality of the evidence
• Synthesize evidence
• Formulate recommendations
• Disseminate assessment results and recommendations
• Monitor impact
Challenges within HTA

- Initial adoption decisions based on limited evidence
  - Pivotal trials, well-controlled
    - Need for understanding of long-term impact, and real-world use
- Assessments are context dependent, and contexts change
  - New technologies
  - Decision priorities
  - New evidence
- Single point in time: reassessment? disinvestment?
Health Technology Assessment → Health Technology Management

- Supports real-world decision-making at all levels, monitors and evaluates technology use over time, and identifies all of the consequences of implementation
- Dynamic, longitudinal

Requires “Living HTAs”
Example: Health Technology Management

- Any new evidence?
  - Different effect, quality?
  - Trigger for reassessment?
  - Trigger for re-recommendation?
Opportunities for Living HTAs

• Emerging technologies
  • e.g., rapid testing, point of care, apps, wearables
• Disease based assessments
  • New technology (comparator) in established disease area
  • Re-assessment and disinvestment decisions
• Appropriate consideration of long-term data, including safety and harms
Challenges to Living HTAs

- Need for updates across a range of assessment aspects
  - Comparative clinical effectiveness and safety, cost-effectiveness, patient perspectives and experiences, organizational and implementation issues, ethical issues
- Need for updates across a range of health technologies
- Prioritization of decisions or topics to “live”
  - Capacity issues
- How long to keep alive?
- Living HTAs require Living Recommendations
  - When to act on new evidence?
- Remain patient centred across the lifecycle
Facilitators to Living HTAs (at CADTH)

• Software and automation
  • e.g., DistillerSR, exploring text mining, machine learning
• Strong Information Services department
  • Regular alert service
• Flexible and accessible web publishing platforms
• Stable funding and staff
• Collaboration
Stay Connected

Email me: lauraw@cadth.ca