HTA IMPACT:
STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF
HTA PRODUCTION AND USE

Oral session, HTAi Annual Meeting
20 June 2017 in Rome, Italy
ABOUT INAHTA

International Network of Agencies for HTA

- Founded in 1993 now a global network of 49 publicly-funded agencies.
- Member agencies support health system decision making that affects over 1 billion people in 30 countries.

www.inahta.org
INAHTA IMPACT STORY SHARING

• Conducted annually at the INAHTA Congress.

• Interactive way for INAHTA members to share experiences directly with one another.

• Great success:
  ✓ Sharing with other agencies facing similar challenges
  ✓ Opportunity to ask questions, discuss & learn in informal setting
  ✓ Fosters relationships among members, builds trust
MINI-THEME IN IJTAHC

Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Wendy Babidge
Associate Editors: Tara Schueller & Sophie Werkö

Six stories:
- Alemán & Pérez: Impact of HTA in litigation concerning access to high-cost drugs
- Fujita-Rowherder, Sauerland & Rüther: Arthroscopic surgery for knee osteoarthritis: Impact of HTA in Germany
- Ryan et al.: Contribution of stakeholder engagement to the impact of a HTA
- Sihvo, Ikonen & Mäkelä: Implementing HTA-based recommendations in Finland: Managed uptake of medical methods
- Tivey et al.: Legislative and accreditation requirements for office-based surgery
- Truchon et al.: Shaping Quality in Quebec Trauma Through Vision and Quality Monitoring

Thanks to EIC, co-AE and to the authors for their contributions.
SOME CONTEXT

Story from HTA unit in MOH, Uruguay.

• In Uruguay, a public commission recommends coverage of high-cost drugs in National Health System.

• Not all drugs are selected for coverage.

• Patients can seek access to high-cost drugs that have been denied coverage through litigation (writ of protection)

⇒ “judicialization” of the right to health
Objective
Review the judicialization of access to high-cost drugs and assess impact of HTA on this process.

Methods
• Comprehensive literature search:
  • Electronic databases
  • Local journals
  • Internal MOH documents
• Key informant interviews
Some findings

- Lack of knowledge about HTA in the judicial system = limited understanding why certain drugs were being declined coverage.

- MOH strategy to address the situation included:
  - Roundtables with judges and other stakeholders on the basis of HTA
  - Training defense lawyers in the use and interpretation of HTA
  - Participation of an HTA professional in preparation of defense arguments.

- One year later, the MOH won 25% of the writ of protection cases.
Some context

Story from HTA agency in Germany: IQWiG.

- In 2016, following an IQWiG HTA knee arthroscopy was no longer reimbursed for osteoarthritis, but still covered for other conditions.

- In response, several surgical societies:
  - resisted this decision, and
  - challenged the underlying decision process and scientific basis.
Objective

To study how the negative HTA decision on this non-drug intervention was perceived by the medical community and how it affected health care.

Methods

• Analysis of insurance data
• Review of medical literature
• Internet search
• Interviews with surgeons
Some findings

• HTA can challenge existing beliefs, practices, incentives.

• A lack of understanding of EBM / HTA → resistance

• Recognition that loopholes can undermine policy decisions (e.g., clinicians may choose to classify a condition according to what is currently being reimbursed).

• Emphasis on the importance of involving stakeholders in HTA in the right way & at the right times.
CONTRIBUTION OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO THE IMPACT OF A HTA

RYAN ET AL.

Context

Story from HTA agency in Ireland: HIQA.

• Focus on a program for automated external defibrillators (PAD), which can improve survival from cardiac arrest.

• Topic already subject of substantial public and political discussion.

• MOH requested HTA from HIQA to inform their decisions.
Objective

To highlight the contribution of stakeholder engagement to the impact of the HTA.

Methods

• Full HTA conducted.
• Extensive, targeted stakeholder engagement part of the HTA.
• HIQA also evaluated the impact of the HTA and the communication of outputs.
Some findings

• HTA findings about the PAD:
  ➢ The clinical benefits were modest.
  ➢ It would add a high cost burden to small businesses during economic recession.
  ➢ Not cost-effective.

• HTA informed the government’s decision not to progress with the legislation or program.

They found that:

• Informing & educating stakeholders about HTA process, findings & results maximized acceptance.

• Good media management & non-technical summaries promoted public engagement and understanding.
IMPLEMENTING HTA-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS IN FINLAND: MANAGED UPTAKE OF MEDICAL METHODS

SIHVO, IKONEN & MÄKELÄ

Context
Story from HTA agency in Finland: FinOHTA.

- Focus on the Managed Uptake of Medical Methods (MUMM) program which offers critically-appraised information on medical methods, similar to rapid review.

- Physicians propose topics, MUMM Board prioritizes these for review.

- MUMM Board gives recommendation to hospitals.
**Objective**

To evaluate the awareness & implementation of MUMM recommendations by physicians in secondary care.

**Methods**

- Web-survey with closed and open responses.
- Targeted to chief physicians
- Conducted 6 months after a MUMM recommendation was published.
Some findings

- MUMM recommendations well-received by physicians, but less used than clinical practice guidelines.

- Short-form electronic surveys were useful method to gather data but also served to increase awareness among physicians about the recommendations.

They observed that:

- Organizational culture can influence the application of new knowledge.
Context

Story from HTA agency in Australia: ASERNIP-S.

- Focus on surgeries performed in office settings.
- No national standards for office-based facilities.
- Some surgical procedures increasingly performed in office-based facilities leading to some safety concerns.
Objective
To determine the legal definition of surgery along with the legislative and regulatory requirements across Australia for accreditation of surgery in office settings.

Methods
Rapid review
Targeted internet searches:
- Government websites
- Accreditation Commission
Some findings

Analysis led to the identification of loopholes where higher risk surgeries could occur in office settings. i.e.:

- Procedures requiring local anesthesia (vs. full sedation)
- Procedures not listed for reimbursement (e.g., liposuction)

Furthermore:

- Non-prescribed or non-reimbursed surgical procedures performed in office settings unlikely to be regulated.

The HTA report was used to prepare a consultation response to the government on this issue.
Context

Story from HTA agency in Québec, Canada: INESSS.

- Prior to 1990 no regulated pre-hospital triage system in Québec.

→ Higher mortality and morbidity relative to other Canadian provinces and U.S.A.

- In response, the Québec government created the Québec Trauma Care Continuum (TCC)
Objective
To establish a trauma care program and to monitor and demonstrate it’s quality, benefit, sustainability.

Methods
Applying HTA approach to program development and quality improvement:

- Systematic literature reviews
- Engagement of expert advisory groups
- Comparative effectiveness
- Longitudinal tracking of indicators
Some findings

- In one decade, the in-hospital mortality rate dropped from 52% to 9%.
- 186 lives saved per year.
- Cost savings of CAD 6.3 million per year due to shorter length of stay in hospital.
- Continuous evaluation & improvement process, grounded in evidence-based knowledge was central to the success of the TCC.

→ Could be considered a type of health technology management? (supporting implementation)
SOME EMERGING THEMES

1. **Stakeholder engagement fundamental to achieving impact in HTA:**
   - Patients
   - Clinicians
   - Government bureaucrats / decision makers
   - Public
   - Politicians
   - Media
   - Lawyers, judges
SOME EMERGING THEMES

2. *Examples of HTA impact reaching new domains:*

- Informing legislation development
- Informing legal system / judicial domain
- Technology management & optimization
- Organizational structures & process (service delivery)
COMING SOON!

Mini-theme on HTA impact stories!

International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care

http://www.htai.org/journal/about-ijtahc.html
ON BEHALF OF INAHTA MEMBERS

Thank you ~~ Grazie

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