

## Impact of HTA on Policy: Examples from INAHTA members

*Note: In October 2001 VATAP queried INAHTA members for examples from around the world of the direct impact of HTA on health policy. These results are not a complete inventory of all HTA done by INAHTA agencies and do not include assessments that had no impact on policy. The results are intended as a tool for promoting the value of HTA to health care decision makers.*

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| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a> | Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment (HBOT)  | Calgary Regional Health Authority: One HBOT unit is operating in Edmonton, Alberta. Should a second HBOT unit be placed in Calgary?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> <li>• Cost implications considered</li> </ul> IJTAHC 1999; 15 (4): 661-70.   | Second HBOT unit not funded based on HTA demonstrating that increased benefits did not justify increased costs   |
| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a> | Impact and quality of 20 rapid HTAs called Technotes to advise provincial health care decisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the impact of rapid HTAs on provincial health care decision making?</li> <li>• Is the quality of the advice acceptable?</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of report development and preparation</li> <li>• Discussions with decision makers</li> <li>• Appraisal of data following report</li> </ul> IJTAHC 2000;16 (2): 651-6.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 Technote reports:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 14 influenced policy decisions</li> <li>– 4 provided guidance</li> <li>– 2 had no apparent impact</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quality acceptable but should be regarded as provisional, follow-up where possible.</li> </ul> |
| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a> | Intraocular lenses for uncomplicated age-related cataract                                       | Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines Programs: What are the relative safety, efficacy, and effectiveness of three intraocular lenses (polymethyl methacrylate, foldable silicone, and acrylic) ? | Systematic review<br><br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta/publications/reports/intraocular99/intraocular.shtml">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/reports/intraocular99/intraocular.shtml</a>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines updated</li> <li>• Coverage for monofocal, foldable lenses for patients undergoing cataract surgery approved by Alberta Health and Wellness</li> </ul>   |
| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a> | Treatment options for acoustic neuroma  | Alberta Health and Wellness Out-of-Country Health Services Committee: Should provincial authorities consider out-of-province travel for stereotactic radiosurgery treatment of acoustic neuroma? | Systematic review<br><br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/reports/acousticneuroma99/">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/reports/acousticneuroma99/</a>   | Support for out-of-province travel and treatment by gamma knife discouraged  |
| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a> | Evaluation of a pilot telepsychiatry project  | Alberta Mental Health Board: What is the feasibility and usefulness of telepsychiatry services in central Alberta?   | Primary study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questionnaires</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• Site visits</li> <li>• Logs</li> <li>• Cost analysis</li> </ul><br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/reports/telepsyc.shtml">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/reports/telepsyc.shtml</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope of telepsychiatry services in the province extended</li> <li>• Changes in operations introduced as a result of experience gained</li> </ul>   |
| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a> | Selective testing with bone density measurement (BDM)   | To inform Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines Program on the appropriate use of BDM in routine care   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other HTAs</li> <li>• Updated references</li> </ul><br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/techwise/aug99/4.shtml">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta-publications/techwise/aug99/4.shtml</a>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guideline development informed</li> <li>• Spanish HTA agency s policy recommendations informed</li> </ul>   |

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| AHFMR (Alberta, Canada)<br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca</a>  | Implantable left ventricular assist devices (LVAD)   | Province Wide Area Services Committee: Should provincial authorities fund LVADs for patients with end stage heart failure? | Rapid systematic review (Technote)<br><br><a href="http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta/index.php3?mode=archive&amp;type=technotes">http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta/index.php3?mode=archive&amp;type=technotes</a>       | LVADs not funded at this time   |
| ANAES (France)<br><br><a href="http://www.anaes.fr">www.anaes.fr</a>                    | Screening for prostate cancer  | Should prostate cancer screening be implemented in France?   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesis</li> <li>• Economic evaluation</li> <li>• Overview report</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.anaes.fr">www.anaes.fr</a>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass screening campaign not implemented in France</li> </ul>   |
| CAHTA (Barcelona, Spain)<br><br><a href="http://www.aatm.es">http://www.aatm.es</a>     | Internal dissemination, implementation, and impact analysis activities   | Evaluation of the impact of HTA in Catalonia according to recommendations of the EUR-ASSESS working subgroup               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External survey</li> <li>• Internal review</li> </ul><br><a href="#">See reference list</a>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambulatory surgery, cardiac surgery, radiotherapy, and other payment systems modified</li> <li>• Regulation and payment for long-term home oxygen therapy and quality of care for stem-cell transplants changed</li> <li>• 40-50% reduction in expenses, and up to 100% in some cases, resulted from clinical guidelines on use of low-molarity contrasts</li> <li>• Areas identified in need of publicly funded research by Catalan Health Service</li> <li>• Usefulness in CAHTA products identified from user feedback: general information, defining health policy, introducing new technologies, and improving dialogue with clinicians; areas identified in need of improvement</li> </ul> |
| CCOHTA (Canada-national)<br><br><a href="http://www.ccohta.ca">http://www.ccohta.ca</a> | Leukoreduction techniques in transfused blood components   | Canadian Blood Agency requested evidence of cost and effectiveness of various leukoreduction techniques.                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> <li>• Interviews</li> </ul><br><a href="http://www.ccohta.ca/newweb/pubapp/pubs.asp">http://www.ccohta.ca/newweb/pubapp/pubs.asp</a>      | Used by Canadian Blood Agency to develop policy on leukofiltration  |
| CCOHTA (Canada-national)<br><br><a href="http://www.ccohta.ca">http://www.ccohta.ca</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ritalin</li> <li>• Lispro</li> <li>• Statins</li> <li>• Drugs for multiple sclerosis</li> </ul> | Provincial authorities requested reviews of the evidence to document appropriate indications for use.                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical reviews</li> <li>• Rapid assessment</li> </ul><br><a href="http://www.ccohta.ca/newweb/pubapp/pubs.asp">http://www.ccohta.ca/newweb/pubapp/pubs.asp</a> | Reviews aided provincial drug formulary decisions   |
| CCOHTA (Canada-national)<br><br><a href="http://www.ccohta.ca">http://www.ccohta.ca</a> | Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)   | What is the evidence supporting pharmaceutical management of GERD?   | Overview<br><br><a href="http://www.ccohta.ca/newweb/pubapp/pubs.asp">http://www.ccohta.ca/newweb/pubapp/pubs.asp</a>   | Used by Canadian Consensus Conference in developing national practice guidelines  |

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| DACEHTA (Denmark)<br><br><a href="http://www.dihta.dk">http://www.dihta.dk</a>   | Interferon Beta for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SP-MS)  | Should the Danish health care system offer Interferon Beta to treat patients with SP-MS?                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> <li>• Evaluation of economic, organizational, and patient-related issues from national MS-register</li> <li>• Expert panel</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://147.29.115.214/Publicationer/Docs/Beta-interferon-3123-12-1995/html/Beta-interferon/index.html">http://147.29.115.214/Publicationer/Docs/Beta-interferon-3123-12-1995/html/Beta-interferon/index.html</a></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1999 local authorities proposed postponing coverage postponed until more evidence available</li> <li>• Decision overruled by National government (political decision); treatment funding made available to local authorities</li> <li>• In 2001 coverage limited to selected patients with SP-MS and relapsing MS based on new trial data and expert panel</li> <li>• Overall total number of patients receiving treatment reduced since 1999</li> </ul> |
| ICTAHC (Israel)  | 44 drugs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• antiretroviral combo therapy for HIV</li> <li>• statins for cholesterol maintenance</li> </ul><br>6 other technologies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spinal cord stimulation</li> <li>• LVAD</li> </ul> | 1999 update of National Health Services List (NHLS) of reimbursed services (formulary of Israel's largest Sick Fund) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-based HTA</li> <li>• Consensus panels</li> </ul> <p>S. Shani et al. <i>Health Policy</i> 54(2000) 169-185.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped set priorities for reimbursement of new technologies and new indications for existing technologies</li> <li>• ICTAHC involved in screening of initial list of topics and comprehensive evaluation of chosen topics</li> </ul>  |
| ITA (Austria)<br><br><a href="http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/">http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/</a>   | Pharmaceuticals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erythropoietin (EPO) in tumor anemia</li> <li>• AmBisome for invasive aspergillosis</li> <li>• CMV-IG after transplantation</li> </ul>  | To inform local health insurers on the overall efficacy and cost-effectiveness of these pharmaceuticals              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> <li>• Expert panel</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/ebene5/d2-2b15.pdf">http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/ebene5/d2-2b15.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/ebene5/d2-2b19.pdf">http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/ebene5/d2-2b19.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/ebene5/d2-2d18.pdf">http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ita/ebene5/d2-2d18.pdf</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reimbursement for EPO limited to approved indications</li> <li>• Internal guidelines developed for each treatment</li> <li>• Use of each treatment dropped significantly after guidelines implemented</li> </ul>  |
| NCCHTA/NICE (UK-England and Wales)<br><br><a href="http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk">http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">http://www.nice.org.uk</a> | Alternative hip prostheses  | NHS-UK: What type of prostheses should NHS surgeons use for primary total hip replacement?                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic reviews</li> <li>• Economic modelling</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk">http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk</a></p>  | NICE guidance on use of prostheses with the lowest documented failure rates recommended, potentially saving up to £8m per year   |
| NCCHTA/NICE (UK-England and Wales)<br><br><a href="http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk">http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">http://www.nice.org.uk</a> | Prophylactic removal of wisdom teeth  | NHS-UK: When should NHS dentists and surgeons remove wisdom teeth?   | Systematic review <p><a href="http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk">http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk</a></p>   | NICE guidance on reducing unnecessary surgery recommended, potentially saving up to £5m  |

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| NCCHTA/NICE (UK-England and Wales)<br><br><a href="http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk">http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">http://www.nice.org.uk</a> | Prostate cancer screening  | NHS-UK: What is the value of PSA testing in early detection of prostate cancer?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic reviews</li> <li>• Other HTAs</li> <li>• Ongoing monitoring of literature</li> </ul><br><a href="http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk">http://www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk</a>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncontrolled dissemination of PSA testing contained</li> <li>• NHS primary research in screening prostate cancer directed</li> </ul>  |
| NHTAP (preceded MSAC) (Australia)  | Intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT)   | Should a dedicated IORT facility be introduced in New South Wales (NSW)?   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> <li>• Interviews</li> </ul><br><i>Health Pol 1996;35: 267-77.</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of IORT only in clinical trials recommended</li> <li>• IORT unit not established in NSW</li> <li>• Funding as a national facility under Nationally Funded Centres program could be considered</li> </ul>  |
| NHTAP (preceded MSAC) (Australia)  | Diffusion of MRI in Australia  | Government health authorities: Describe the appropriate role of MRI, technical development, and costs relative to other diagnostic methods, particularly CT, in clinical care. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum data set</li> <li>• Cost analysis</li> <li>• Primary diagnostic efficacy studies</li> <li>• Informal interviews</li> </ul><br><i>IJTAHC 1993;10:522-29.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diffusion in public sector influenced more than in private sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- diffusion controlled, workload and reimbursement of MRI in public sector teaching hospitals defined</li> <li>- services unevenly distributed in private sector from quicker, unplanned acquisition and use of MRI</li> </ul> </li> <li>• HTA influence limited by scope of health authority and politics</li> <li>• HTA and monitoring of evolving indications of technologies are important but underutilized policy making tools</li> </ul> |
| NZHTA (New Zealand)<br><br><a href="http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz">http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz</a>   | Automated and Semi-automated Cervical Screening Devices  | New Zealand Health Funding Authority: Should the National Cervical Screening Programme fund liquid cytology (thin prep)?   | Systematic Review<br><br><a href="http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/cs_v3n1.htm">http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/cs_v3n1.htm</a>   | Population-based screening test not introduced   |
| SBU (Sweden)<br><br><a href="http://www.sbu.se">http://www.sbu.se</a>  | Routine use of preoperative chest radiography, ECG and clinical lab tests for elective surgery | What is the value of preoperative routines for elective surgery?<br>What is current practice in Sweden?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative literature review</li> <li>• Survey questionnaire</li> <li>• Economic analysis</li> <li>• Consensus panel</li> </ul><br><i>IJTAHC 1997;13 (4):547-52.</i>   | HTA demonstrating little or no benefit for the overwhelming majority of patients led to decreased preoperative testing in Sweden.  |
| SMM (Norway)<br><br><a href="http://www.sintef.no/smm">http://www.sintef.no/smm</a>  | Screening for Prostate Cancer  | Minister of Health: Is there benefit from early diagnosis of prostate cancer?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HTAs from nine INAHTA agencies and recent Joint Project</li> <li>• Expert Panel</li> </ul><br><a href="http://www.oslo.sintef.no/smm/Publikasjoner/FramesetPublikasjoner.htm">http://www.oslo.sintef.no/smm/Publikasjoner/FramesetPublikasjoner.htm</a> | Routine population screening not recommended, and planned Norwegian screening project withdrawn  |

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| VATAP<br><br><a href="http://www.va.gov/vatap">http://www.va.gov/vatap</a>          | PET scanning   | VA has a moratorium on purchasing PET until its clinical efficacy is established. Should the VA purchase another PET scanner for veterans in Texas?  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic reviews</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• Surveys</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/petreport.htm">http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/petreport.htm</a> | No additional investment in PET scanners made.  |
| VATAP<br><br><a href="http://www.va.gov/vatap">http://www.va.gov/vatap</a>          | Tablet splitting   | Is the practice of splitting tablets that are twice the dose safe and effective?   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/ta_short_5_00.pdf">http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/ta_short_5_00.pdf</a>                                   | Tablet splitting not supported by VA national policy.   |
| VATAP<br><br><a href="http://www.va.gov/vatap">http://www.va.gov/vatap</a>          | Stereotactic Pallidotomy (SP) For Treatment of Parkinson s Disease (PD)                                      | Local VA network requested guidance from national Technology Recommendations Panel on the effectiveness of SP for treatment of PD.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systematic review</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/pallidot.pdf">http://www.va.gov/resdev/prt/pallidot.pdf</a>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported establishment of a national consortium of six VA PD Research, Education and Clinical Centers</li> <li>• Helped direct clinical research of other more promising treatments for PD</li> </ul> |