



Title	Guidelines for the introduction and acquisition of new health technologies in Andalucía (GANT).
Agency	AETSA, Agencia de Evaluación de Tecnologías Sanitarias de Andalucía Avda. de la Innovación, s/n. Edificio Arena-1, ES-41020 Sevilla, Spain Tel: +34 95 500 6638 Fax: +34 95 500 6677
Reference	AETSA report, 1999

The aim of this guideline is to provide a useful tool for decision-making in the process of selecting and acquiring new technologies in the Andalusian healthcare system.

Methods: The literature was reviewed to identify studies on: factors influencing the introduction of new technologies; decision-making processes on funding and coverage; and similar previous experiences. Main references on HTA methodology and reports from other INAHTA agencies were also included. A multidisciplinary working group was formed to identify key elements for the guideline and to analyze the current situation and processes followed in the region. Ethical and legal issues were also considered. The format selected for the guideline was an application designed as a questionnaire, followed by evaluation criteria and recommendation categories.

A pilot study on nine technologies was carried out in four hospitals to assess the feasibility of the process and the internal validity of the questionnaire. The results were positive.

The final version includes the following:

- Recommendations for identifying and selecting technologies for which GANT is applicable, and organizational issues.
- Recommendations to assist applicants in completing the questionnaires and finding relevant information and resources.
- General criteria for initial assessment of applications.
- Specific criteria on how to assess the evidence provided and to classify it into different categories.
- When and how to apply to AETSA for a complete assessment report.
- GANT questionnaire, including the following sections:
 - A. Description of the technology or service proposed, including regulation issues.
 - B. Clinical characteristics: need assessment, indications, and proposed benefits.
 - C. Evidence of efficacy, effectiveness, and safety.
 - D. Impact of the technology on service management and organization
 - E. Implications for patients, and legal and ethical issues.
 - F. Economic evaluation.

Appendix: Worksheet for calculating annual costs (fixed costs provided by Andalusian health service when available).

An implementation strategy has been designed. It includes a strategy for the wide distribution of the guideline (paper and electronic versions, also available on AETSA's website: www.csalud.junta-andalucia.es/orgdep/AETSA/GANT.htm) the involvement of health service executives and managers, and AETSA support for applicants. A planned feature is the annual evaluation of impact.