

# HTA Database Canadian search interface:

## Background and key messages

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## HTA Database Canadian search interface, history and background

In the spring of 2013 the Pan-Canadian HTA Collaborative Working Group for a Canadian HTA Repository unanimously agreed to partner with the UK's Centre for Reviews and Dissemination to test their existing international HTA database (funded by UK's National Institute for Health Research- NIHR) as a vehicle to provide a Canadian-specific HTA repository. This decision was made in order to leverage the functionality, accessibility and customer base of the HTA database whose content is supplied by 52 members of the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) and 20 other HTA organizations around the world.

In the fall of 2014 a bilingual Canadian search interface to the (NIHR) HTA database was completed and records of 4 pilot Canadian HTA agencies (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health- CADTH, L'Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux -INESSS, Health Quality Ontario- HQO, Institute of Health Economics - IHE) were entered. The Pan-Canadian HTA Collaborative Working Group will be promoting the HTA Database Canadian search interface and helping to expand database participation to other Canadian HTA producers.

### Key messages for HTA producers

#### The HTA Database Canadian search interface:

- is a single repository for HTA reports (Canadian and International)
- helps avoid duplication of effort among both Canadian and International HTA producers
- promotes collaboration within the Canadian and International HTA community
- promotes the use of health technology assessments for evidence-based health care decision making within Canada
- is inexpensive and easy (no need for contributing Canadian HTA producers to modify their Websites or reports!)
- is simple to add records to:
  - + contact [CdnHTA@cadth.ca](mailto:CdnHTA@cadth.ca) to have CADTH take care of entering your organizations' HTA records
  - OR
  - + contact [CdnHTA@cadth.ca](mailto:CdnHTA@cadth.ca) to get access and training in order to add and update your own HTA records
- has an extremely flexible definition of what constitutes a health technology assessment for inclusion (i.e.: rapid reviews, environmental scans, traditional HTA, etc.)

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## Key messages for HTA producers (continued)

- has flexible options for giving access to full-text final HTA reports
  - + link to online version of report on producers Website
  - + producer provides pdf to be uploaded into the HTA database
  - + producer provides an email contact for ordering their full-text reports allows for record entries in both official languages
- currently contains HTA reports from the following Canadian agencies
  - + (see below list) with plans to expand to other Canadian HTA producers in the next two years:
    - + Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
    - + L'Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS)
    - + Health Quality Ontario (HQO)
    - + Institute of Health Economics (IHE)
    - + Miscellaneous Canadian HTA producers added by CRD & NIHR, including the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre (TAU), Technology Assessment at SickKids (TASK), WorkSafe BC, and many others.

## Key messages for Canadian Healthcare Decision Makers

### The HTA Database Canadian search interface:

- has as its goal to encourage the use of health technology assessments for evidence-based health care decision making within Canada
- improves accessibility to Canadian and International HTA reports within one single repository (benefit of "one-stop-shopping" for evidence-based healthcare decision support!)
- includes (for most records) full text links to HTA reports within the database
- has a simple to use, robust search engine with the following features:
  - + bilingual search interface
  - + by default limits to HTA reports produced in Canada and can further limit by province if desired
  - + can easily expand to international HTAs if no Canadian reports are available on the desired topic
  - + can search by topic using standard medical subject headings (MeSH headings)
  - + can search by title, author or producing agency (ex.: HQO)
  - + can limit search by date
- currently contains HTA reports from the following Canadian agencies (see below list) with plans to expand to other Canadian HTA producers in the next two years:
  - + Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
  - + L'Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS)
  - + Health Quality Ontario (HQO)
  - + Institute of Health Economics (IHE)
  - + Miscellaneous Canadian HTA producers added by CRD & NIHR, including the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre (TAU), Technology Assessment at SickKids (TASK), WorkSafe BC, and many others.

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