Different Drugs, Different Thresholds: A Social Good? - decision maker’s perspective

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BC Government Expenses by Function 2009/10

- **Health**: $15,722 (40%)
- **Education**: $10,794 (27%)
- **Social Services**: $3,410 (9%)
- **Other**: $9,381 (24%)

$ in millions
Public drug spending in context
Vicious cycle...

social determinants negatively affect health

health funding increases

social determinants of health get less funding
Considering the factors

- Typical considerations when reviewing submissions:
  - clinical (efficacy, safety, effectiveness) – critical appraisal methods
  - cost-effectiveness – pharmacoeconomic analysis
  - budget impact – business projections
  - “other” considerations – formulary issues
Considering the factors

Other considerations = “SLEEPers”

- social, legal, equity, ethical, political, entrepreneurial research and “stickiness”
- highly subjective
- different thresholds of evidence for different diseases?
- difficult to integrate into decision framework
What is fair and acceptable… and sustainable?

- Vulnerable vs general populations
- Common diseases
  - generally cost less per person
  - affect large population
- Balance needs of population and individual
- Relative value of disease and its treatment
- Resources are limited