HTA and Priority Setting: Overview of the Alberta Health Technologies Decision Process

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The Challenges

• Health system growth
• Range of publicly funded services and benefits
• Cost escalation
• Competing priorities
• Sustainability
Decision Process

- 4 principles (transparency, rigor, timeliness and flexibility)
- Specific focus and scope of assessments
- Explicit bridge between evidence and policy
- Uses STEP analytic framework
- 4 stages

Selection of Technologies → Health Technology Assessment → Policy Development → Post-Policy Evaluation
Scope of Decision Process

- High-impact technologies
- Devices, procedures, programs
- Health Canada-licensed technologies
# Origins of Decision Process

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<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<td><strong>Expert Advisory Panel</strong></td>
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- **Mazankowski Report**
- **Burden of Proof**
- **Expert Advisory Panel**
- **Alberta Health Technologies Decision Process**
- **Health Technologies and Services Policy**
- **Alberta Advisory Committee on Health Technologies (AACHT)**
Selection of Technologies

- Defining priorities for Alberta
- Engagement of multiple stakeholders, multiple levels of decision-makers

**Activities**
- Identification of technologies
- Screening/filtering
- Recommendations (AACHT)
- Approvals
Alberta Advisory Committee on Health Technologies

• Advisory role:
  – the Decision Process
  – enhancing the use of evidence in policy
  – provincial review of health technologies

• Composition:
  – Alberta Health and Wellness
  – Alberta Health Services
  – Alberta Medical Association
  – HTA partners (IHE, UA, UC)
  – CADTH (standing guest)
  – Industry (MEDEC)
Priority Setting Process

• Based on key principles of Decision Process
  – Transparency: accessible, clear from intake to decision
  – Rigor: specific filters and considerations
  – Timeliness: ongoing nomination, regular and frequent meetings of the AACHT, immediate decision
  – Flexibility: responsive to current context and needs of the health system
Future Direction

• Opportunity to improve coordination and efficiency
• Collaboration with AHS on triaging process
  – Clear criteria
  – Bottom-up approach
• Independent scanning and identification
Concluding Remarks

• Priority Setting Process
  – Key element of the Decision Process
  – Contributes to sustainability of health care system
  – Robust and responsive
  – Linked to relevant stakeholders and processes