A New Decision-Making Framework for the Prioritization of Health Technologies

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Step 1 – Deciding upon a Set of Criteria

- The first step was to determine relevant criteria (expected or demonstrated effectiveness, scientific foundations, feasibility, scalability, etc.) on which to judge health technologies.
- We convened a four-person focus group of Regional Health Authorities across Canada to elicit input from decision-makers on the factors that would be considered in prioritizing health technologies.
- The focus group was conducted via a conference call and lasted approximately one hour. The results were recorded and transcribed.
- The group also conducted fifteen key informant interviews.
- Participants suggested and discussed possible criteria, until an exhaustive set was compiled. A list of criteria (based on the literature) was circulated to the focus group ahead of the conference call.
- To thank them for their time and effort, participants were provided with a small honorarium.

Step 2 – Assigning “Importance” Weights to Criteria

- The next step was to determine importance weights.
- We surveyed, by e-mail, decision-makers from 81 Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) across Canada (based on the eleven criteria). The survey was pilot tested for clarity and time prior to being sent out to decision-makers.
- The survey was designed to collect the decision-makers’ input regarding how important each criterion is in promoting the implementation and adoption of a new health technology (on a scale from 1 to 5).
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