BUILDING HTA CAPACITY IN CANADA: NEXT STEPS

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April 26, 2005
HTA Capacity

• Producers
  • Conduct health technology assessments
  • Methods advancements
  • e.g. Researchers, Health Economists

• Users
  • Uptake and apply HTAs in decision making
  • e.g. Decision makers in health ministries, health regions

• Educators and mentors
  • Educate/mentor producers and users
  • e.g. HTA agencies, Universities, Research organizations
Where is HTA Capacity Required?

- Conduct Health Technology Assessments
  - HTA agencies
  - Health regions and hospitals
  - Academic institutions, Research Organizations

- Uptake and apply health technology assessments
  - Health Ministries
  - Health Regions and hospitals

- Educate and mentor producers and users
  - Academic institutions, research organizations
  - HTA agencies
Methods of Building HTA Capacity

- **Educational Programs**
  - Institution-based (e.g. HTA agency, university)
  - Web-based; distance learning
  - Others

- **Research**
  - HTA methods

- **Practical Experiences**
  - Fellowships
  - Graduate Student Support

- **Workshops/Conferences**

- **Contracts/Grants**

- **Other**
Why Build HTA Capacity?

- Increased demand for objective, evidence-based information and policy advice to support decision making
- Increased need for expertise in the uptake and application of HTA in decision making
- Rapid change, high cost and complexity of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and health systems
- Volume of health care technologies
- Future challenges with health care funding
Challenges in Building HTA Capacity in Canada

- Limited financial resources
- Limited formal training & educational opportunities in HTA
- Scarcity of resources
  - shortage of HTA producers
  - current producers/users under resourced and over committed
- Sustainability
- Lack of awareness/knowledge of HTA
- Overall impact of HTA on policy making remains difficult to assess
- Methodological, organizational and procedural differences between HTA agencies
- Rapid pace of innovation
Examples of Current Canadian Initiatives

- **CCOHTA**
  - Capacity Building Grants Program
  - Internship/Residency Programs
  - Outreach – National HTA Symposium, Liaison Officer Program Knowledge Transfer Strategy

- **AHFMR**
  - Skill Development Program

- **AETMIS**
  - On-line training
  - Distance learning course

- **Cochrane**
  - Workshops, Educational Programs

- **Academic Institutions**
CCOHTA’s Capacity Building Grants Program


- Purpose:
  - To enhance the capacity of the Canadian health care system to undertake, understand and apply health technology assessments and their results in policy formulation and decision-making.

- Grants available to provincially-based non-profit health care or health research organizations or educational institutions.
2003-04 Capacity Building Grants Program

- Focus --- strengthening existing HTA capacity in Canada.

- Four program streams:
  - Improvements to or refinements of HTA methodologies
  - Knowledge transfer processes, methods and tools for HTA
  - Educational and training initiatives
  - Graduate student support grants

- 21 grants awarded - $1.6 million

- Work to be completed by March 31, 2005

- Final reports due to CCOHTA by April 30, 2005
2004-05 Capacity Building Grants Program

• Focus --- building new HTA capacity.

• Three program streams:
  • Partnerships Designed to Strengthen and Promote HTA in Canada
  • Workshops/Educational Programs
  • HTA methods

• 16 grants awarded - $1.6 million

• Work to be completed by March 31, 2006

• Final reports due to CCOHTA by April 30, 2006
2005-06 Capacity Building Initiatives

- Evaluate program outcomes
  - Are objectives being achieved?
  - Reports from 2003-04 Program

- Consult with stakeholders regarding future initiatives to enhance capacity
  - Continue with Capacity Grants Program?
  - Contracts with HTA producers, research groups?
  - Other?

- Build support into CCOHTA’s 2005-06 Business Plan
Next Steps in Building HTA Capacity

- Identify three initiatives (in each area) that could be undertaken to enhance:
  - Producer capacity
  - User capacity
  - Educator capacity

- What types of educational programs would be most beneficial in building HTA capacity (e.g. distance learning, university degree or courses, program at HTA agency)

- What opportunities exist for collaboration, partnerships and linkages between HTA agencies, research groups, academic institutions and other groups involved in building HTA capacity?

- How can CCOHTA best support HTA capacity building in Canada? (e.g. continue to offer Capacity Building Grants Program, offer and/or sponsor educational programs, contract work to other organizations/research groups, develop fellowship or other similar programs)