

CADTH Horizon Scan

Horizon Scan Products and Services Processes

Version 3.0

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Abbreviations

PDF	portable document format
HS	Horizon Scan
HTA	Health Technology Assessment
IEHT	Issues in Emerging Health Technologies

1. Introduction

1.1 About the Services

CADTH's Horizon Scan (HS) Service identifies and monitors new and emerging health technologies that may have a significant impact on the delivery of health care in Canada. The service comprehensively summarizes the available evidence on technologies that are not yet in widespread use. This means they are not yet licensed (devices only), marketed, or approved for use in Canada; not yet widely available; or not in routine clinical use. Technologies that are not yet available in Canada are typically expected to receive approval from Health Canada within 6 to 18 months.

Topics chosen for HS's depend on the timing of their clinical development; based on that, the appropriate HS products are then selected for review. A list of these products and their descriptions follow.

Issues in Emerging Health Technologies Bulletins

Issues in Emerging Health Technologies (IEHT) bulletins are concise reviews describing technologies that are not yet licensed for use, are without a Notice of Compliance, or not widely available for clinical application in Canada. IEHT bulletins include a description of the technology, its regulatory status or availability, the patient population that may benefit from the technology, costs, implementation (operational) issues, and a summary of the available evidence.

For devices and clinical interventions, bulletins aim to provide essential background knowledge to guide early planning, describe the development pipeline and current Canadian initiatives of relevance, and suggest implications for decision-makers and for health technology assessment (HTA) producers. Some bulletins may be paired with other evidence products and may be presented to the CADTH Health Technology Expert Review Panel – HTERP – for the development of statements on the topics.

Health Technology Update Newsletter

The *Health Technology Update* newsletter articles are short summaries on health technologies that are new and emerging. They typically focus on a single technology (such as a specific device or specific diagnostic test kit) and are an early look at emerging health technologies that include medical devices, diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, and other health care interventions (excluding drugs).

Horizon Scan Roundup

CADTH's Horizon Scanning Service monitors national health information sources, as well as other international horizon scanning agencies and services. The resulting Horizon Scan Roundup is a compilation of titles published by CADTH and numerous other horizon scanning services and selected health organizations recognized for their identification of innovative technologies. The Roundup focuses on device medical technologies including medical devices, laboratory tests, biomarkers, programs, and procedures. Roundups may also focus on specific topic areas and present a list of emerging technologies or emerging issues on that specific topic or technology.

1.2 Program Scope

Any new or emerging health technologies may be suitable candidates for topic consideration, including:

- drugs
- devices
- diagnostic tests or imaging
- programs
- medical interventions or surgical procedures.

1.3 Audience

1.3.1 Primary Audience

CADTH's Horizon Scanning Service develops products to support publicly funded pan-Canadian health care decision-makers and health care providers within federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions.

1.3.2 Secondary Audience

Secondary audiences include other HTA agencies and horizon scanning programs, academic researchers, professional associations, clinicians and other health care providers, patients and patient groups, as well as the general public and the media.

All publications are freely available and interested parties can subscribe to CADTH HS products by visiting cadth.ca.

1.4 Purpose and Application for Planning and Decision-Making

The purpose of CADTH's Horizon Scanning Service is to:

- identify and evaluate the evidence on new or emerging health care technologies that may be important
- assess what their potential impact may be – for patients, health care providers, and for the health care system.

For decision-makers, the Horizon Scanning Service aims to support planning and priority setting by increasing the awareness of new and emerging health technologies. HS products are also intended to assist in the prioritization and allocation of resources, as well as inform decision-makers of the possible implications of introducing new and emerging health technologies.

Health care providers and decision-makers may use HS products to plan for the appropriate adoption and use of new and emerging health technologies, and to understand their potential risks and benefits. Patients and caregivers may also use these publications to learn about new and emerging health technologies that might affect their treatment.

HS products do not make recommendations for or against a particular new or emerging health technology, nor are they intended to replace professional medical advice.

1.5 Transparency

CADTH aims to be as transparent as possible within its Horizon Scanning Service. Stakeholders (section 1.3.1) may suggest new and emerging topics for review at any time by contacting the [CADTH Liaison Officer](#) for their jurisdiction; topics may also be suggested by members of the Formulary Working Group—HTA, industry, or others. New and emerging drug topics identified and selected by the CADTH team are typically sent to pan-Canadian committees to review and prioritize. New and emerging device topics are prioritized as part of a CADTH multicriteria internal-based process. All HS products are freely available for download from cadth.ca.

1.6 Timelines

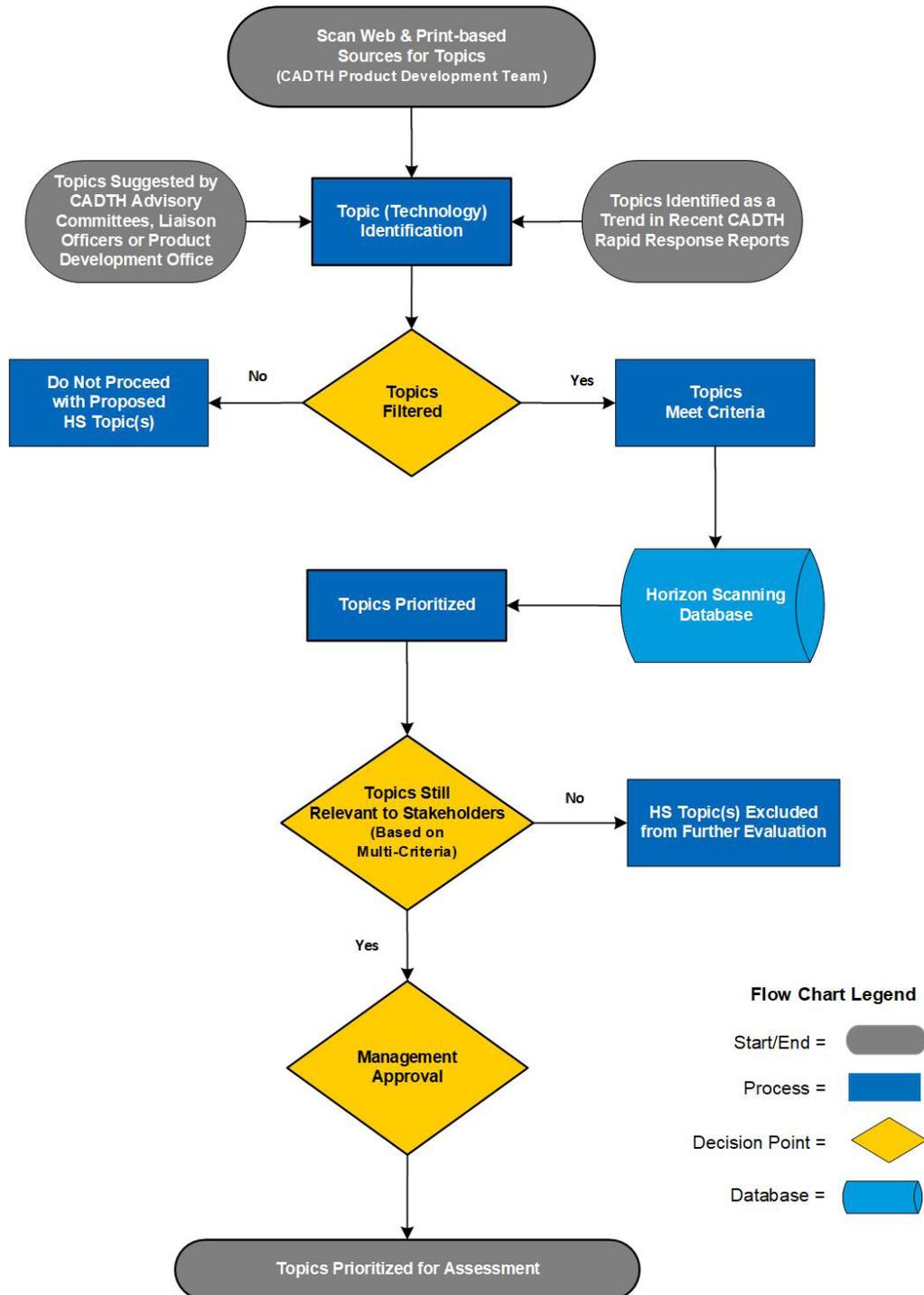
Table 1: Topic Selection Deliverables and Timelines by Product Type

Product type	Deliverables	Approximate turnaround time
Medical devices and clinical interventions, and drugs		
HS topic identification and prioritization	New and emerging technologies identified (drugs and devices); selected for further evaluation	Meetings 2 or more times per year for topics short-listed by CADTH and others
(IEHT) bulletins	Bulletins of concise reviews describing drug and device technologies	4 to 6 months from topic selection to web publication
Medical devices and clinical interventions		
HTU newsletter	Newsletter including articles about new or emerging devices and health technologies	4 to 5 months from topic selection to web publication
HS Roundup	Compilation of new and emerging devices and health technology titles including medical devices, laboratory tests, biomarkers, programs, and procedures	4 months from topic selection to web publication

HS = Horizon Scan; HTU = Health Technology Update; IEHT = Issues in Emerging Health Technologies.

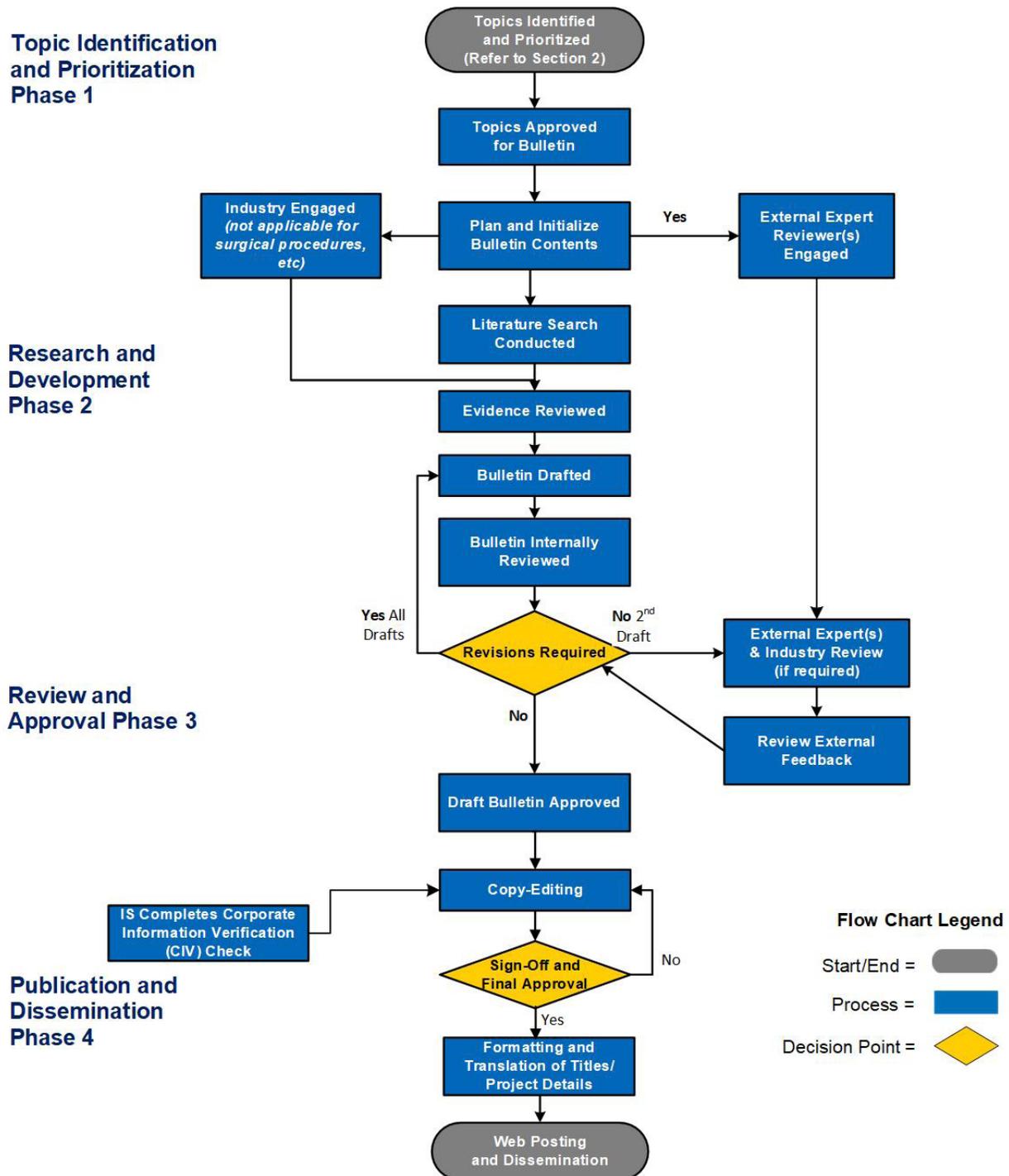
2. Horizon Scan Topic Identification and Prioritization Process

Figure 1: Topic Identification and Prioritization Flow Chart



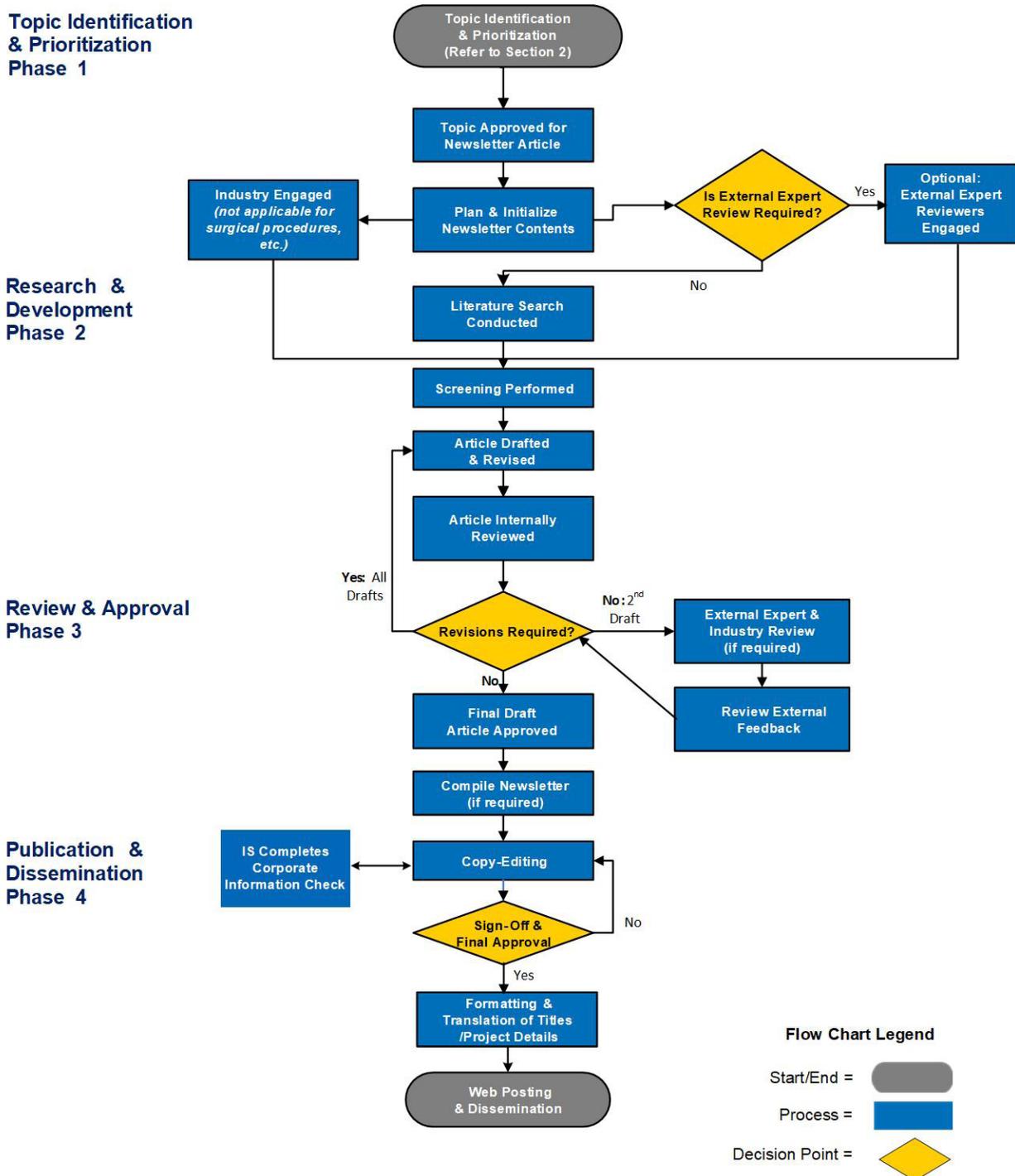
3. Issues in Emerging Health Technologies Bulletin Process

Figure 2: Issues in Emerging Health Technologies Bulletin Flow Chart



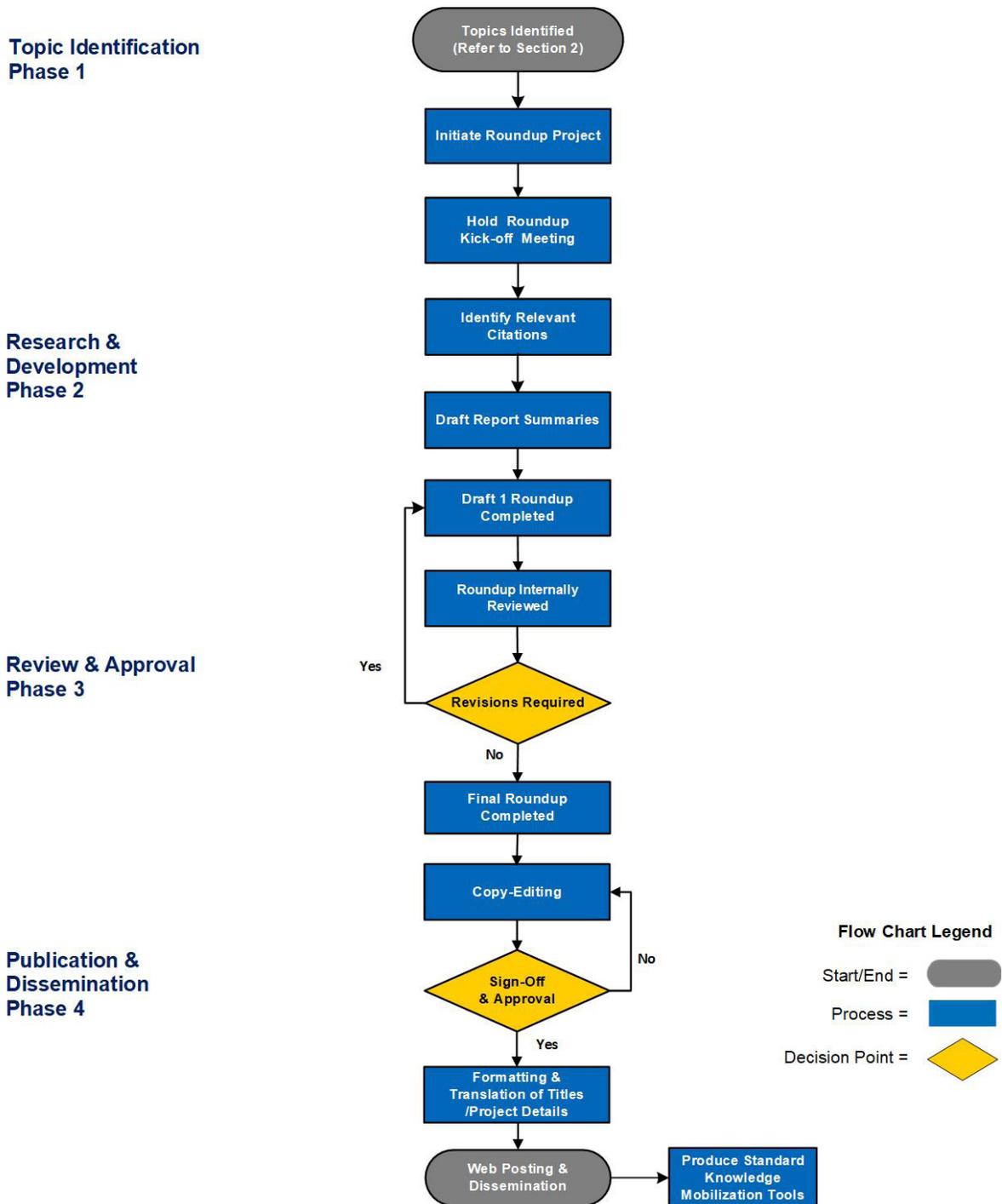
4. Health Technology Update Newsletter Process

Figure 3: Newsletter Flow Chart



5. Horizon Scan Roundup Process

Figure 4: Roundup Flow Chart



Revision History

Periodically, this document will be revised as part of ongoing process improvement activities and methods updates. The following version control table, as well the version number and date on the cover page, must be updated when any changes are made to the document.

Section(s)	Revision number	Date	Description/change(s) made
All	V1.0	August 2017	First version of document released
All	V2.0	July 2021	Updates made throughout
All	V3.0	August 2021	Process further streamlined