The Nuts and Bolts of Integrating Health Technology Assessment in Care Pathways and Clinical Practice Guidelines

Brenda Rehaluk, MAL

Ian Chaves, MACT
Alice Ndayishimiye, MPH
Ted Pfister, MSc
Rosmin Esmail, MSc

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• Inquiry team: Ian Chaves, MACT
  Alice Ndayishimiye, MPH
  Ted Pfister, MSc
  Rosmin Esmail, MSc

• Strategic Clinical Networks: Bone and Joint
  Cancer
  Respiratory Health

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Overview of Talk

- Project Background
- Inquiry Question and Subquestions
- Literature Review, Highlights and Challenges
- Methods and Data Collection
- Evidence and Strategies
- Ideas and Key Messages
Project Background

Strategic Clinical Network Health Technology Assessment and Adoption aims to:

- Support evidence-informed decision-making
- Project stems from the Health Technology Assessment and Adoption 2014/2015 Action Plan to discover the value of integrating health technology assessment in care pathways and clinical practice guidelines
Strategic Clinical Networks in Alberta

Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs)

- Addiction and Mental Health
- Bone and Joint Health
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Health and Stroke
- Critical Care
- Diabetes, Obesity and Nutrition
- Emergency
- Kidney Health
- Maternal Newborn Child & Youth
- Respiratory Health
- Seniors Health
- Surgery
What are Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs)?

Collaborative interdisciplinary clinical teams with a provincial mandate to improve quality and outcomes based on best evidence.
Inquiry Question

How can health technology assessment (HTA) be used effectively in clinical care pathways and clinical practice guideline development?
Subquestions

What key organizations have used health technology assessments effectively into CPs and CPGs and what can we learn from them?

What is the state of the evidence on effective strategies to integrate health technology assessment into CPs and CPGs?

What are the current mechanisms for incorporating health technology assessment and reassessment on technologies in CPs and CPGs on which SCNs are working?

How could HTAA support the SCNs in the integration of health technology assessment into CPs and CPGs as an advisory and implementation unit?

In what ways can integrating health technology assessment into CPs and CPGs enhance patient-centred care?
Literature Review

- Value of integrating health technology assessment
- Organizational interventions (care pathways, clinical practice guidelines, health technology)
- Evidence of health technology assessment in care pathways and clinical practice guidelines in organizations
- International comparison of health technology assessment in organizations
- Optimization of health technology assessment integration in organizations
By adapting and integrating HTA for decision-making purposes it would cultivate a positive organizational context and help develop a culture of evaluation by using scientific evidence to support clinical practice decisions (Gagnon, 2014)

Organizational leadership is pivotal in advancing HTA in organizational interventions, mechanisms, and processes to support the development and implementation of HTA and HTR in CPs and CPGs (Leggett et al., 2012)
Challenges

Légaré, F., Ratté, S., Gravel, K., & Graham, I. D. (2008)

• Time constraints remain the most often cited barrier for implementing shared decision-making

• Lack of agreement with the applicability of shared decision making to population in a practice


• Balance academic rigor with operational efficiency to complete reviews in a timely way so that they can impact decisions

• Considering costs when published cost analyses are not available

• Providers not educated in evidence evaluation may be resistant to processes

• Fear of liability on the behalf of providers, particularly when policies informed by Comparative Effectiveness Centers are not followed
Methods & Data Collection

- Qualitative Survey
  - 1 SCN
  - 14 Invites
  - 4 Volunteers

- Qualitative Interviews
  - 1 SCN (members)
  - 3 SCN (leaders)
  - 1 Provincial Program (leader)
  - 18 Invites
  - 5 Volunteers

- Non clinical project manager
- Physician
- Nurse researcher
- Pharmacist / CR Educator
- Clinician
- Allied Health Worker
- Executive Director
- Manager

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"By having [HTA] evidence on hand then the communication becomes enhanced in terms of having evidence that supports the pathway, as opposed to general guidelines. “[This is] integrated [HTA] help[s] us to the point where we feel we’ve got the evidence. [Where] we can communicate that proudly to our entire group and look at actually implementing that pathway. (IP-5).

“It improves the communication tremendously. It actually enhances patient centered care because standards are established, guidelines are utilized” (IP-3).
“HTA resources has a huge potential to bring external evidence-based information forward, shrink the world in a sense, make the information more accessible from international organizations, and enhance the basic level of analyzing and shifting information to the depth of what you can get somewhere in the world” (IP-1).
3. Evidence - Buy-in

“The [health] technological aspect of it really helps enforce compliance with the pathway, it helps with the uptake of the pathway’s main aspects” (IP-2).

“Especially for frontline workers, it helps get buy-in from stakeholders to pick up the pathway and then success in adopting and implementing into their workflow” (IP-3).
4. Evidence - Education

“It would help if the SCN doesn’t have to spend their time educating the various stakeholders and then getting their buy-in to bring [in] health technology folks” (IP-1).

“Put the information on a bulletin board network because staff don’t check their email” (IP-2) and “regular updates twice a year, repetitive information centres, and even just roll out how the actual pathway is doing across the province, like what percentage are utilizing it, has it changed practice” (IP-3).
“Prevention on the far left, or health promotion even, at the very front end of the continuum. What are we doing to help set up a central intake type of process in the community, before inpatient or acute care? What about post-acute, rehabilitation, long-term care implications? For the full continuum, that’s how I see leveraging HTA in a very meaningful way to maximize the breadth of what we do in care pathways” (IP-5).
6. Evidence - Advisory Unit

It would be “excellent to look at outcomes, which is what we want.” [Help SCN] “understand the impact on health technology. How can we advance what we’re already doing with regard to current literature so that we don’t repeat things that have already been done or mistakes that appear to have been made?” (IP-3)

The HTAA, as an advisory unit, “could identify and propose proven or promising technologies that relate to the proposed pathway/guideline—inviting the development team(s) to explore options they might not otherwise have considered” (SP-2).
“We’re not looking at one best practice, one form of evidence-based technology, we’re looking at a series. Each time we take a fork in the road on the algorithm, each time we move a step forward on the care map, then I think we have to have room there for information gathering. We’d be gathering the current practice and with that we would be reassessing it to improve and incorporate it” (IP-4).
8. Evidence - Reassessment

“Reassessment of [health technology] evaluation is critical to assess the job that we’re doing, see if it’s (1) improving health outcomes, and (2) continue to pitch to senior executives for them to say, Yes, we’re improving health outcomes, and here’s the money we’re saving” (IP-2).

“We’d be gathering the current practice and with that we would be reassessing it to improve and incorporate it. See if it still holds water, if it needs to be changed” (IP-4).
Strategy 1 - Strengthen Relationships and Communication

- Enhance linkages with SCNs working groups
- Clarify roles and functions
- Incorporate HTAA in SCN Framework

HTA Analysts’ role as international resource
HTAA as advisory & implementation unit

=> HTA presence
Strategy 2 - Explore Gaps and Tools

Mechanisms & Tools for frontline care teams:
- Checklists
- Evidence-based information
- Outcomes of CPs implemented

Support a culture of HTA acceptance:
- Brief request forms for HTA analysts
- Education & training for health care providers
- Integrate with Provincial Care Pathway Committee & AMA, Choosing Wisely Alberta

HTAA is the Bridge
Strategy 3 - Clarify How Health Technology Assessment and Adoption fits within Alberta Health Services

- Quality Improvement Knowledge Management Departmental /Program-HTA sub-committees

- Influence to evidence-informed decision-making
- Support to AHS around technology management & cost-effective patient-centred care
Strategy 4 - Time to Collaborate

SCNs & HTAA commit to evidence-based care pathways and clinical practice guidelines
One Idea: Health Technology Assessment and Adoption Repository

- Store information on the evaluation of health technologies
- Retain evidence-based information on care pathways from national and international sources
- Link to established studies of evidence-based information on clinical pathways and clinical practice guidelines
- Link to the eQuality repository developed by Quality Health Improvement
- Gather research data to inform Strategic Clinical Networks on new care pathways or emerging technologies
- Develop and maintain health technology assessment integrated care pathways and clinical practice guidelines
Other Ideas: Metrics and Evaluation

Find the best ways to communicate to the public on patient outcomes of care pathways

Provide patients with real time data on care pathways and patient outcomes

Develop a public website domain for reporting on care pathways

Measure the uptake and adoption of care pathways in a population health review

Determine how efficient and effective care pathways are changing practice

Discover if the degree of health technology is the same level as first proposed

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Key Messages

> Health technology assessment is critical to the development and uptake of care pathways and clinical practice guidelines.

> Health technology assessment creates a common language among health care providers to improve engagement and patient-centred care.

> Optimization of health technology assessment involves strengthening the linkages of HTAA with other departments in Alberta Health Services, provincial bodies and beyond.

> To maximize the value of health technology assessment to decision-makers, the development of relationships, education, and simple technological tools to support health care providers and patient care are key.
References


Thank You

Don’t expect to see a change if you don’t make one!

Brenda Rehaluk, MAL
brendare@leadershipdiscovery.ca
www.leadershipdiscovery.ca