

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Fall 2008 Position Statement*



MEDEC

CANADA'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

LES SOCIÉTÉS CANADIENNES DE TECHNOLOGIES MÉDICALE



Health Technology Assessment (HTA) must be an enabler of patient access to new technologies.

HTA is used to inform decisions on the reimbursement, coverage, adoption and uptake of healthcare technologies. HTA should not be used or perceived as an additional barrier to regulatory approval, or to increase time prior to patient access.

Medical device specific HTA assessment methodology must be recognised.

Medical device technologies are unique and different from pharmaceuticals; therefore a pharmaceutical model for device assessments is not appropriate.

For example, medical devices:

A Societal Perspective

- Are comprised of a wide cross-section of medical technologies and diagnostics, including mechanical, electrical, and materials-based engineering, as well as biotechnologies and other sciences.
- Have a high rate of innovation, have a short product life cycle and investment recovery period.
- Undergo continuous innovation and iterative improvements based on new human health, engineering science, technology and available materials.

** This paper replaces MEDEC's previous position statement, "Health Technology Assessment of Medical Devices, MEDEC's position on issues surrounding HTA in Canada, Spring 2006".*

HTAs should adopt a broad perspective, capturing the impact of new medical technologies on patients, health care providers, the health system, care pathways and society as a whole.

HTA Process

- Must be transparent, objective, timely, regularly-published as the HTA review occurs, and have an appeal process independent of the HTA process to avoid bias.
- Industry, as an innovator of technology, must be recognized as a key stakeholder during the consultations.
- Health Technology Assessments should focus on clinical and cost-effectiveness and avoid duplication of Health Canada's role in determining safety and effectiveness.
- Assessments should not add to the time-to-patient access for new medical technology introductions and duplication by HTA agencies should be avoided.
- Evaluations should be conducted to determine the rate of uptake of technologies that receive a positive recommendation.

Implementation of HTA recommendations

HTA bodies should put in place steps to support the implementation of HTA recommendations to ensure appropriate funding follows positive recommendations.

MEDEC's Position

MEDEC is committed to working with HTA agencies throughout Canada to ensure that HTA is applied appropriately to medical devices. The principles presented above are intended to ensure that the application of HTA encourages the efficient allocation of healthcare resources; acknowledging the value of medical device and diagnostic innovation in Canada; and fostering rapid patient access to effective, reliable and safe technologies. ■

ABOUT MEDEC:

MEDEC is the national association representing the medical technology industry in Canada. Our members are committed to providing safe and innovative medical device technologies that enhance patient care and advance patient outcomes.

