

The highest weight (24 percent) was attributed to the "Potential to work in HTA area" and "Scientific writing skills" (20 percent). The evaluating group was unanimous in considering the process easy, fast and fair.

CONCLUSIONS:

The MCDA technique was applied successfully in student selection. Further prospective studies are needed.

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VP66 Perception Of Decision Makers And Researchers Towards Health Technology Assessment In Ghana

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INTRODUCTION:

In recent years, the Ghana health system has been faced with the challenge of financial sustainability. New ways of making decisions in a cost-effective manner that ensure efficient use of available resources is being explored. Consequently, Ghana has been pursuing the formal introduction of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for decision making in the health system.

However, the limited use and impact of HTA on health systems has been associated with reasons including, and not restricted to, the knowledge and perception of decision makers towards it (1-3). Therefore as Ghana gears towards using HTA formally, it is important to assess the knowledge and attitude of potential users and producers of HTA. This will provide useful information for the setting up of an HTA agency.

METHODS:

A qualitative research approach using in-depth interviews was utilized. Twenty-three decision makers both at the national and district levels, and four researchers were interviewed. Thematic analysis was conducted using NVivo software.

RESULTS:

Only seven respondents had knowledge about HTA. Respondents perceived HTA differently, and the word 'technology', was often misconstrued as a device for communication such as mobile phone. Two main barriers to the use of HTA emerged; lack of resources (human, data, and finance) and politico-cultural issues. To address these barriers respondents recommended that stakeholders be involved in decisions concerning the guidelines for its conduct, composition of the appraisal team, and the focus of HTA. Generating of human, data and financial resources were also indicated.

CONCLUSIONS:

There is paucity of knowledge about HTA in Ghana. For Ghana to successfully introduce HTA for health decision making and realize its expected benefits, there will be a need to address the perceived barriers in a comprehensive manner. Also, to mitigate data and

human resource barrier, Ghana will have to examine the available local data and human resource to build on.

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VP67 The Value Of The European Network For Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) Outputs For National Health Technology Assessment: The French Experience

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INTRODUCTION:

The French National Authority for Health (HAS) has participated in the work of the European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) since its creation in 2006. HAS has been an active partner in most EUnetHTA activities, and the lead partner of specific work packages.

METHODS:

This report presents a summary of the main contribution of HAS to the two latest EUnetHTA projects (Joint Action (JA) 1 and Joint Action 2 (JA2)), their impact on national production, and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) doers feedback as to the

opportunities and challenges of participating to the network and using its outputs.

RESULTS:

In JA 1 and JA 2 projects, HAS has: coordinated activities related to Early Dialogues and Additional Evidence Generation; coordinated the development of nine JA1 methodological guidelines for rapid relative effectiveness assessment (REA) of pharmaceuticals; participated in the production of two JA2 methodological guidelines; participated in the production of one JA1 and seven JA2 rapid REA reports, and two JA2 full HTAs.

The national uptake of EUnetHTA outputs included entire adoption of one REA report and adaptation of another. EUnetHTA templates and methodological guidelines have been taken into account when updating or developing national ones. Thanks to the network, HAS HTA doers could exchange on ongoing assessments with European colleagues, have enhanced their methodological know-how and enlarged their professional network.

As for the challenges encountered, it turned out that the re-use of EUnetHTA reports for a technology of interest to HAS was not always possible, mainly due to discordances in deadlines or assessment questions between EUnetHTA and national productions.

CONCLUSIONS:

HAS has actively participated in different EUnetHTA projects since the network's creation. This collaboration has enabled HAS HTA doers, among others, to optimize national assessments and enhance their methodological know-how.

VP69 Mapping Brazilian Nuclear Medicine Installed Capacity And Perspectives

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