Health Technology Assessment

Concept Note

Rational and Objective

With continuing population growth, the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), increase in arrears, and an estimated 45% of people uninsured, Jordan's health sector will need to implement significant reforms to increase efficiency and optimize costs. USAID HFG is working with the GOJ to increase spending efficiency of public resources for health in support of the government's UHC goal. One of the most effective tools to achieve cost efficiency and conduct proper resource allocations is HTA (Health Technology Assessment) and HTM (Health Technology Management).

Health Technology Assessment is the systematic evaluation of properties, effects and/or impacts of health technologies and interventions. It can be applied to medical devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures, health services, and public health interventions. The HTA approach is used to inform policy and decision-making in health care, especially on how best to allocate limited funds to health interventions and technologies. The assessment is conducted by interdisciplinary groups using explicit analytical frameworks, drawing on clinical, epidemiological, health economic and other information and methodologies. In addition, Health Technology Assessment informs policy and clinical decision making around the introduction and diffusion of all health technologies including medicines, devices, vaccines, medical equipment and health interventions for prevention, promotion, treatment and palliative care (source WHO).

In this paper, we propose a pragmatic approach to implement HTA in Jordan, taking into consideration specialty centers and financial challenges.

Approach

Our approach will bring in the best expertise from academia, public sector and private sector under a newly established entity, that has the authority and power to deliver healthcare research and reports to encourage more efficiency and influence the public sector decision making. The aim is to build on the current knowledge and practices.

The establishment of the new function will follow the below principles:

I.   *Ensure enabling environment (Health Technology Regulations).* HTA 's success depends on the ability to link research evidence to support well-defined policy decisions. Therefore, for institutionalizing HTA, solid commitment from key decision makers in the health system is of paramount importance to integrate HTA findings and recommendations into decision-making. laws and regulations need to be reviewed, adjusted and enforced to support the reports and recommendations stemming from HTA. Value of the HTA is demonstrated when its recommendations influence decision making, therefore the legal environment is of paramount importance.

II.   ***Build on the current capacities.***
Rather than re-inventing the wheel, we can build on the current capacities and specialization of existing professionals in academia, public sector and private sector, to cover most of the technologies under HTA. Staffing of HTA should include professionals covering several key needed disciplines such as economics, finance, and healthcare.

III.   ***Roel of the HHC.*** The High Health Council (HHC) is well positioned to align, coordinate and manage the initiation, scoping, financing, and set up of the HTA function at the start.

IV.   ***The use international best practices.***

There is a wealth of knowledge and best practice available in countries where HTA is applied*.*

"WHO, international organizations and networks, and individual agencies have developed a variety of methodological tools and frameworks to assess the safety, the efficacy and/or effectiveness, as well as the economic, social, legal, ethical and/or political considerations pertaining to the introduction, utilization or even disinvestment of a health technology or intervention." (Source WHO).

Therefore, many of these tools are publicly available and can be adapted to fit the decision makers' evidence need. Also, encouraging an environment that enables networking among countries and institutions, will lead to the capacity building of HTA newly established entity.

V.   ***Complete Independence and full representation of the health sector.*** To maximize the success of the newly established HTA function, it must be completely independent, yet also representing all key powerful stakeholders in the health sector. In other words, the BOD (Board of Directors) could have representation from different healthcare stakeholders.

VI.   ***Selectivity and prioritization.*** The scope of an HTA is broad, covering all technologies such as medicine, equipment, treatment protocols, vaccines, and others. Yet, it is up to the management of the HTA to plan, budget, and select its yearly priorities and plans, based on market and population needs.