Health Technology Assessment Practices in Turkey

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Introduction

Especially in developed countries, worldwide for the determination of the health services in the process of determining the cost-effectiveness of health care policy, health technology assessment methods are widely used. HTA method, by determining the cost-effectiveness of health technologies such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and health systems by providing a complete and accurate calculation an important input and support is given in the implementation process to the policy maker(s). In the European Health Technology Assessment Network (in Elsevier/DHIA/HATA, Health Technology Assessment), is described as a multi-disciplinary process that summarizes the medical, social, economic and ethical issues in a systematic, transparent, impartial and efficient manner and purpose is creating an effective health policy to obtain the best value as patient-centered, safe and efficient manner. (2) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a process with the goal of providing scientific support to policy decisions for “Evidence-based health policy” applications. In this process, the technologies used in health care are reviewed by examining various aspects. Benefits, costs and cost-effectiveness, organizational impacts and social and ethical issues are evaluated in a systematic way. Moreover, HTA process is intended to inform all parties concerned with health technologies. In assessing the health spending cost-minimization, cost-effectiveness, cost-utility, cost benefit are methods that are commonly used to evaluate the effects of budget and fiscal incentives (3, 4).

Turkey’s HTA Background

Turkey's first introduction to HTA was in 2009 during the third World Bank Health Transition Project when the Ministry of Health invited England’s National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to consult on the development of a short clinical guideline on Carcinoma Section delivery (NICE). The initiative was designed to be a pilot project to illustrate NICE's approach to guideline development using HTA methodology. In 2011, HTA was also included as part of a four day HTA training to 35 officials from the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Labor’s Social Security Institute (SSI), the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Development that year. In 2012, NICE was invited to join again for three focus groups with the World Bank to assess the role of family physicians in the Turkish healthcare system.

Ministry of Health restructured in November 2011, within the General Director- ate of Health Researches, Department of Health Technology Assessment (HTA SAGEM) established and it is the first serious initiative has been launched for the establishment of national HTA process (1).

As part of the same MOH reorganization, the Turkish Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Council was established to conduct all licensing activities. Within that commission, the Economic Assessment Department set up a small HTA unit.

In February 2012 in Ankara Human Training and Research Hospital with the HTA and established a hospital-based HTA applications were initiated. SSI institu- tion responsible for payback in 2015 within the General Directorates of General Health Insurance, Monitoring and Evaluation Department of Health Technologies was established.

Within the scope of this reorganization, the MOJ passed a Directive on Health Technology Assessment which defined a national HTA process to be carried out within the MOJ. The Directive established an HTA Department within the MOJ’s Health Technology Assessment Section. Part 2 of the Directive defines HTA, health technology, efficacy, clinical-effectiveness, rapid short/full reporting, and adaptive studies. Part 2 of the Directive establishes a Health Technology Assessment Section, defines its members and describes how topics are to be submitted for consideration, how they are to be evaluated, and how decisions are to be made within the commission. Part 4 describes the HTA process including pre-assessment, the types of HTA that may be conducted, the format and functions of the project teams, how decisions are to be made within the Commission, and how a final report will be prepared. By definition, health technology assessment is “an effective health policy to obtain the best value as patient-centered, safe and efficient manner.” Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a process with the goal of providing scientific support to policy decisions for “Evidence-based health policy” applications. In this process, the technologies used in health care are reviewed by examining various aspects. Benefits, costs and cost-effectiveness, organizational impacts and social and ethical issues are evaluated in a systematic way. Moreover, HTA process is intended to inform all parties concerned with health technologies. In assessing the health spending cost-minimization, cost-effectiveness, cost-utility, cost benefit are methods that are commonly used to evaluate the effects of budget and fiscal incentives (3, 4).

The Top Selection Commission was established and held its first meeting in July of 2013 to officially kick off HTA work within the MOJ. Members include officials from the MOJ, the Turkish Public Health Institute, the Turkish Pharmaceutical and Medical Council of HTA team leader, the Turkish Public Health Council, the Social Security Institute’s HTA Division head, the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Industry, non-governmental organizations representing patients or industry as well as pharmaceutical and medical device companies (1).

Completed Health Technology Assessment Studies (SAGEM HTA)

• The Role of Obesity Surgery in Treatment for Obesity in Turkey (full report) (1)
• Smoking Cessation Support Program Cost Effectiveness Analysis (rapid report) (1)
• Low Intensity Shock Wave Therapy for Vascular Erectile Dysfunction (rapid report) (1)
• Prophylactic Use of Palivizumab for Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections (rapid report) (1)
• Mobile Cardiac Telemetry Monitoring of Medical Device (rapid report) (1)

Ongoing Health Technology Assessment Studies (SAGEM HTA)

• Role of Peritoneal Dialysis Treatment in Chronic Renal Failure (full report) (1)
• Comparison of Chronic Hepatitis B Treatment (full report) (1)
• Introspective neuro-monitorization the rapid report) (1)
• HPEC: Hyper持平ic intravenous chemotherapy (full report) (1)
• CT (Computed Tomography) Imaging Demand Analysis of Accuracy in shoting, Radiation Safety Assessment and the resulting terms of lowest medical Detection (rapid report)

Health Technology Assessment Study will be initiated (SAGEM HTA)

• A comparative of the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis (full report) (1)
• 3 subjects to be selected by the Election Commission in 2016.

In this context, there are studies carried out with the EunetHTA. The first of these EunetHTA OMS (World B Spain BIC, KA100F Lithuania, Slovak Republic, Austria LBI-HTA “Biodigester Stands for Befitting Preparing Digestive Stool” study, published in May 2015 has SAGEM 2015 was involved as HTA co-au- thor. (5)

In the scope of EunetHTA OMS, report: A Netherlands ZN, Switzerland HCIGE, Italy A. Gennari, Belgium EUR, Croatia AAZ, Finland FINMIA, “Rapid Relative Effectiveness Assessment of new pharmaceuticals for the treatment of chronic Hepatitis C” SAGEM is HTA reviewer (15).

In recent years all countries public health spending has a serious increase In order to ensure the financial sustainability of health systems the need for evalua- tion of health technologies is increasing.

In the HTA area although SAGEM initiated rapid institutionalization studies have been HTA there is still a long way to go in in the health technology sector in Turkey. One of the biggest obstacles is the fragmented structure in the public sector and private sector. Although there are various regulations on this topic still can’t be mentioned in particular the existence of a structure that ensures full com- pliance with EU acquis and practices. There is a need to increase number of quali- fied experts in the field and need to improve administrative capacity. Although there are joint efforts with the EU relevant international cooperation level is not at the desired level. In order to increase the level of institutionalization in the field of HTA there is a need for efficient and widespread national cooperations. Another problem about the area, it has not yet reached the desired level of awareness. Sector needs trained manpower, consolidated structure and arrangements com- paltable with the acquis. The presence of a central authority to ensure coordination between the stakeholders will play an important role in meeting needs. Especially there is a need for sharing the information produced and studies to assess the effectiveness of reporting / structures.

For this need SAGEM HTA has initiated various projects. One of them was signed in September 2015 by the World Bank “Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Capacity Building, Dissemination and Sustainability Project”. Another project IPA II signed by the high level management of the Ministry of Health - Human Resources Development Sectoral Operational Programme (HRDSP 2014 - 2020) “Development of the National Health Technology Assessment Capacity” Project. The target establishment of a national HTA system has completed its institutional- lave, have access to the international cooperation of the equal level with similar institutions and with the HTA the reports will be published to increase the quality of health service delivery to and contribute to the dissemination of good clinical practice. Thereby providing a systematic structure by ensuring the sustainability of the HTA process in Turkey.

With the initiated projects provision of trained manpower, develop guidelines and manuals related to HTA and through a variety of hands-on training programs will be prepared with international cooperation. It is aimed to respond to the sector’s needs. In order to achieve this goal the realization of different activities such as meetings and workshops are planned in Turkey. In addition, during the project process by better quality and more efficient reports it aims to contribute to solving the industry’s problems. As a result of the defined final structure especially the Social Security Institute, the pharmaceutical sector, civil society organization- s and stakeholders in the various units of the Ministry of Health is expected to affect from the output directly. Via health technology assessment reports in order to provide better quality services stakeholders in the private sector will also benefit from the outputs.

References

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Introduction

Especially in developed countries, the knowledge of the health services, the process of determining the cost-effectiveness of health care. Health technology assessment methods are widely used, HTA method, by determining the cost-effectiveness of health technologies such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and health systems, by providing a complete and accurate calculation. In the implementation process of the product approval, in the European Health Technology Assessment Network (EHTA) (EHTA, Health Technology Assessment), is described as a multidisciplinary process that summarizes the medical, social, economic and ethical issues in a systematic, transparent, impartial and efficient manner and purpose is to create an effective policy to obtain the desired policy as patient-centered safe and efficient manner (1). Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a process with the goal of providing scientific support to policy decisions for evidence-based health policy applications. In this process, the technologies used in health care are reviewed by examining various aspects, benefits, costs, and ethical values, organizational impacts and social and ethical issues are evaluated in a systematic way beyond HTA processes is intended to inform all actors concerned with the technologies. In assessing the health spending cost-effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, quality, benefit, and cost-effectiveness are methods that are commonly used to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies (2,3).

Turkey’s HTA Background

Turkey’s first introduction to HTA was in 2003 during the Third World Bank Health Transition Project when the Ministry of Health invited England’s National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to conduct a study on the development of a short clinical guideline on Censorium section (NICE). The initiative was designed to be a pilot project in which NICE’s approach to guideline development was used. However, the Ministry of Health also provided support for NICE’s team. In 2007, HTA was included in the Turkish National Health Care Act and the Ministry of Health, Health Care Act, and the Ministry of Development that year. In 2010, NICE was involved again in the country’s three groups with the World Bank to assess the role of family physicians in the Turkish healthcare system (4).

Completed Health Technology Assessment Studies (SAGEM HTA)

- The Role of Obesity Surgery in Treatment for Obesity in Turkey (full report) (5)
- Smoking Cessation Support Program Cost Effectiveness Analysis (rapid report) (6)
- Low Intensity Shock Wave Therapy for Vascular Erectile Dysfunction (rapid report) (7)
- Prophylactic Use of Palonosetron for Respiratory Sponulized Virus Infections (rapid report) (8)
- Multichannel telemetry Monitoring of Medical Device (rapid report) (9)

Ongoing Health Technology Assessment Studies (SAGEM HTA)

- Role of Physical and Medical Treatment in Chronic Renal Failure (full report) (10)
- Comparison of Chronic Inadequate Treatment (full report) (11)
- Intraprogressive Nonmetallic Coronary Stenting (rapid report) (12)
- CT Imaging Tomography: Imaging and Decision Analysis in Accuracy in Radiation Safety Assessment and the resulting terms of Best E(T) Mobility Analysis (rapid report) (13)

Health Technology Assessment Study will be initiated (SAGEM HTA)

- A comparison of the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis (full report) (14)
- It is subjected to be initiated in the March of 2016 (15)

SAGEM and EUHTA common studies

In this context, there are studies carried out with the EUHTA, the first of these EUHTA WPS Strand 5 (SAGEM) include: Economic Evaluation of Medical Devices (EEMD), Medical Technology Assessment (MTA), Medical Technology Assessment, Surgical techniques, Health care sectors and services, Health technology assessment is started initially by the evaluation of clinical effectiveness and patient safety, secondly, the aspects of economic and organizational actions together with social and ethical aspects are evaluated by a final report, Scientific evidence is used in all evaluation stages. In addition, patients, health professionals and health technology producers contribute to the interpretation, transparency is one of the main principles in this process.

The main policy of the Department for health technology assessment process as;
- To encourage the use of new or improved clinically effective health technologies in a rational and equitably manner, and
- To prevent waste in healthcare services by decreasing the use of health technologies which are clinically ineffective or financially unsustainable despite their effectiveness.

In the health technology assessment process, we declare that the HTA Department is faithful to the basic values of Ministry of health as following: Human Focused, Universally, Fairness, Participation, Solidarity, Respectfully, Professionally, Transparency, Accountability, Sustainability, Evidence-based Quality & Effectiveness, Innovation (16).

Result

In recent years, cost-effectiveness public health spending has a serious increase in order to ensure the financial sustainability of health systems the need for evaluation of health technologies is increasing.

In the HTA area although SAGEM initiated rapid methodological studies base with NICE there is still a long way to go in the health technology sector in Turkey. One of the biggest obstacles is the fragmented structure in the public and private sector. Although there are various regulations on the topic still can’t be mentioned in particular the substance of a study that ensures all compliance with EU acquire practices. There is a need to increase number of qualified experts in this field and need to improve administration capacity. Although there are joint efforts with the EU relevant international cooperation levels not at the desired level (17) in order to increase the level of institutionalization in the field of HTA there is a need for efficient and adequate national cooperation, another problem about the area, it if not yet reached the desired level of awareness, Sector needs trained manpower, consolidated structure and arrangements compatible with the EU. The presence of a central authority to ensure coordination between the stakeholders will play an important role in meeting needs. Especially there is a need for sharing the information produced and studies to assess the effectiveness of reporting structures.

For the next SAGEM HTA has initiated various projects. One of them was signed in September 2015 by the World Bank “Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Capacity Building, Dissemination and Sustainability Project”, another project PA signed by the high level management of the Ministry of Health - Human Resources Development Sectoral Operational Program (HRSDOC 2014 - 2020) “Development of the National Health Technology Assessment Capacity Project”. Target is to establish an infrastructure which has contributed to institutionalization, awareness in the health technology assessment practices in various institutions and with the PA the goals will be to improve the quality of health service delivery and to contribute to the dissemination of good clinical practices, thereby promoting a systematic structure by ensuring the sustainability of the HTA process in Turkey.

With the initiated projects provision of trained manpower, development guidelines and manuals related in HTA and through a variety of hands-on training programs will be prepared with international cooperation. It is aimed to respond to the sector’s needs, in order to achieve this goal the development of different activities such as workshops and workshops are planned in Turkey. In addition, during the project process by better quality and more efficient reports it aims to contribute to enhance the industry’s products, as a result of the achieved final structure especially the Social Security Institution, the pharmaceutical sector, civil society organizations and stakeholders in the various sector of the Ministry of Health is expected to affect from the sector directly, the health technology assessment reports in order to provide better quality service stakeholders in the public sector survival benefit from the outputs.

References