

# Health Technology Assessment in Korea



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# 1 Health Care System in Korea

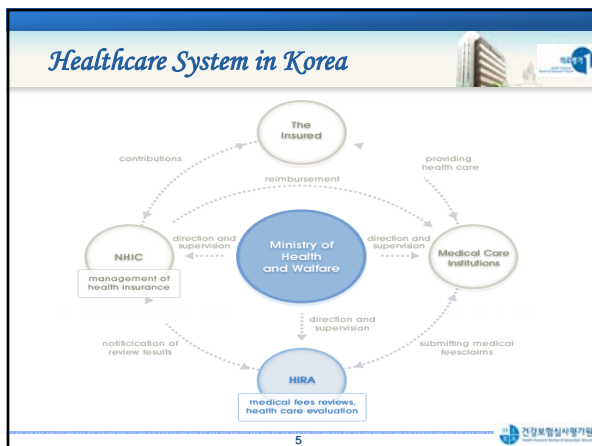
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## Health Security System

Two kinds of health security scheme in Korea:

- National Health Insurance system (97%)
  - Universal coverage
  - Financed by contribution paid by the insured and by government authorities
- Medical Aid Program (3%)
  - To lower income group
  - Funded by the government budget

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# 2 HTA in Korea

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### HTA in Korea

- Introduced in April 2007 under the Medical Law
- Aims to assess the safety and effectiveness of new health technology
- To encourage the development of high technology in the health sector

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### HTA system in Korea

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### Which technology should be assessed by HTA?

- newly developed health technology
- current technology that has been modified
- Technology valued by the Minister for health Welfare and Family Affairs

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### Operational Structure of HTA

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### Committee for HTA

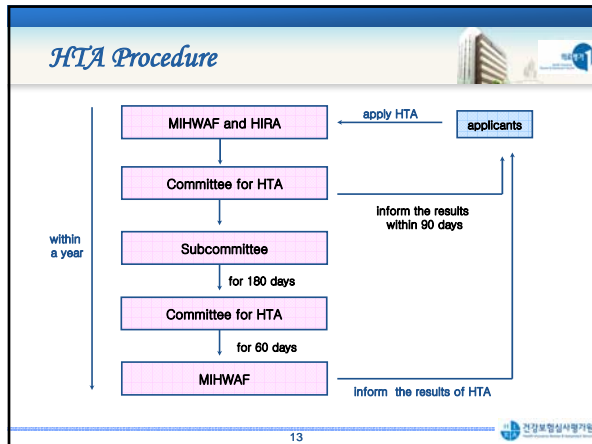
- An independent committee was established under the Medical Law
- Consist of 20 members from clinical medicine, health specialist, lawyer and consumer representatives
- Members are appointed by the Minister for Health Welfare and Family Affairs

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### Subcommittee for HTA

- The Committee for HTA has 5 special Subcommittees
- The Special Subcommittee consist of 248 medical doctors
- Subcommittees practically assess the submitted new technology
- The results are reported back to the Committee for HTA

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- ### Assessment of the new health technology
- In 2007, the committee assessed 55 applications for new technology, and accepted 26 as technologies
  - 55% of applications are diagnostic test
  - Five assessments were approved for use by the committee and endorsed by the Ministry
  - Three of the endorsed new technology received public funding
  - The average assessment took ten months to complete
  - Additional 59 applications have been submitted to the Committee in 2008
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### 3 Challenges for HTA in Korea

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- ### Challenges of HTA in Korea
- How to identify real new technology for assessment
  - What is the best way to assess new technology, in particular diagnostic test
    - survey of relevant literatures
    - laboratorial test
    - relevant medical association
  - Which technologies should be assessed?
  - What evidence should be admitted?
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- When (and How) to consider ethical or social aspect?
  - Rational assessment or political, economic and organizational pressures?
  - HTA-based policy or clinical freedom?
  - Can/should HTA be judged on the impact it has on practice?
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