



Exploring Alternative Pathways: Thailand’s Sustainable Healthcare Financing Solutions to Improve Access to Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer

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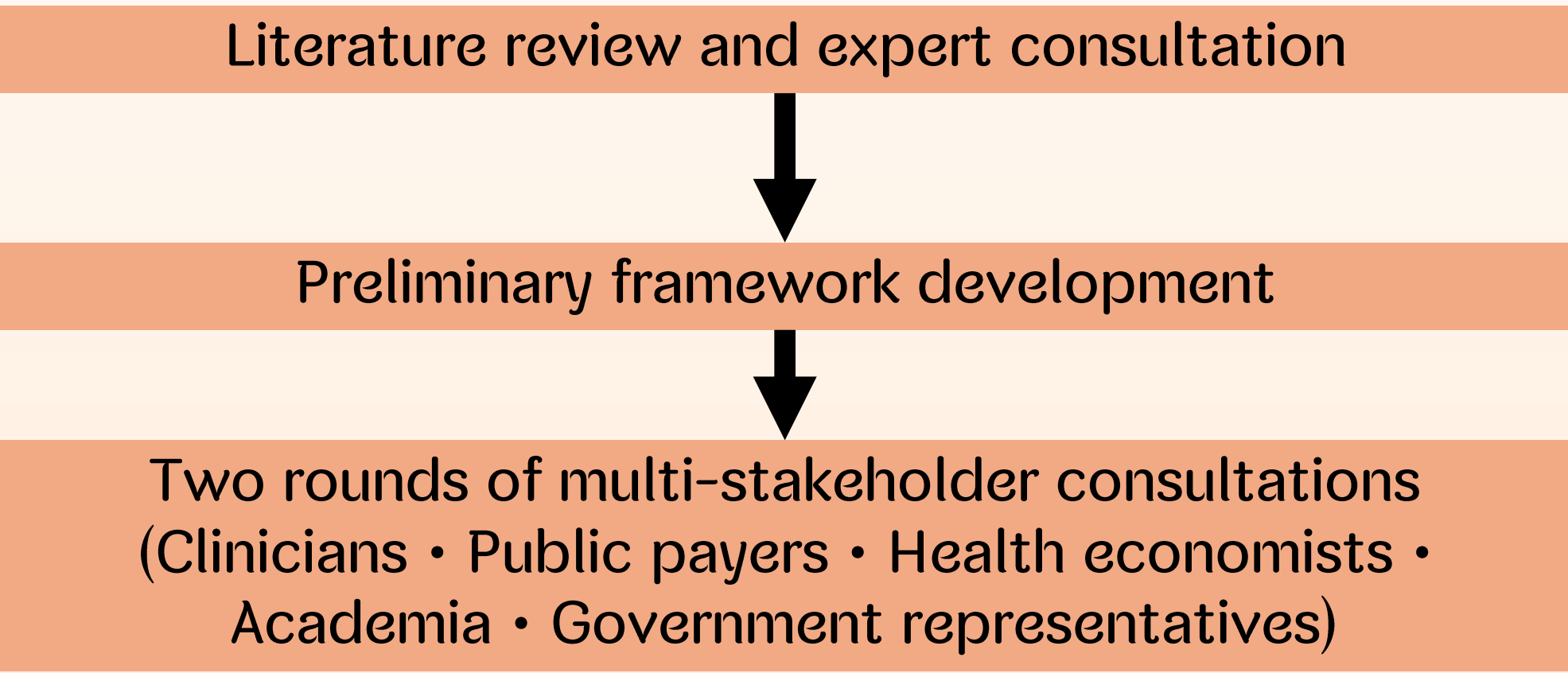
CHALLENGE

- Rising lung cancer incidence and mortality increase the demand for innovative treatments, including immunotherapy.¹
- Expanding access to immunotherapy is crucial but hampered by financial constraints.²⁻⁴

OBJECTIVE

- To explore alternative financing solutions for scaling up access to immunotherapy in Thailand.

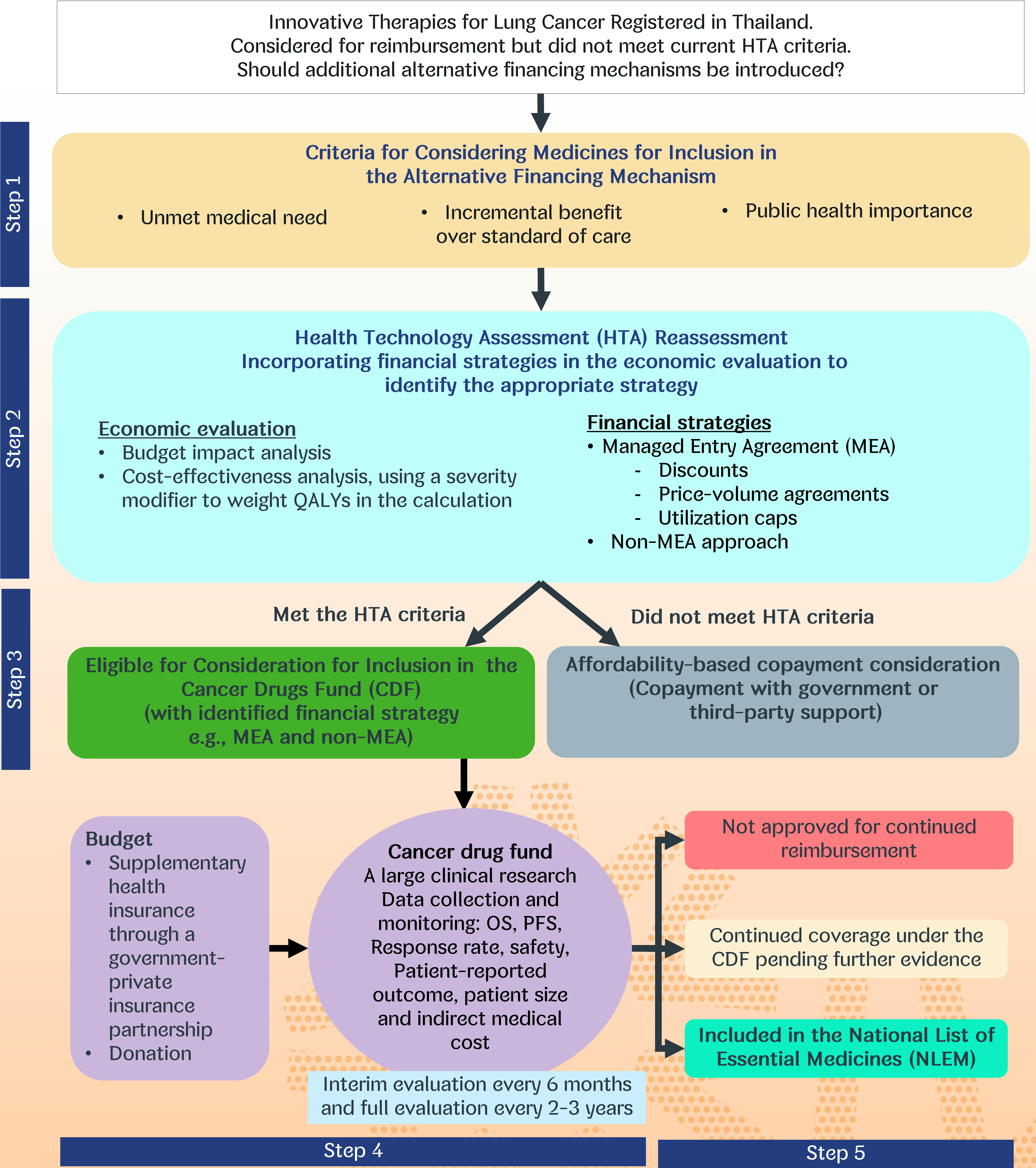
METHODS



RESULTS

- Clinical and economic uncertainties surrounding immunotherapy make traditional reimbursement approaches challenging to maintain within the Thai healthcare system.
- The feasible alternative financing mechanisms identified for Thailand include a Cancer Drug Fund (CDF) and copayment. **Figure 1** presents a stepwise financing pathway for innovative lung cancer treatments.
- For the affordability-based copayment, patient contributions may be adjusted based on income level or financial capacity to ensure equitable access while maintaining affordability.
- Drugs eligible for the Cancer Drug Fund will be included either through an MEA or a non-MEA approach, based on budget impact and cost-effectiveness analyses.
 - Preferred MEAs are discount/rebate, price-volume agreement, expenditure cap, and utilization cap.
 - Least preferred MEA is free initial treatment, although it has been used among lung cancer patients in Thailand.
- CDF funding may be supported through government-private insurance partnerships. Supplementary insurance could be provided through either a compulsory model (government-funded) or a voluntary model (policyholder-funded).
- Evidence generated through the CDF is reviewed regularly through interim evaluations and comprehensive reassessments to inform decisions on the continuation of drug listing. .

Figure 1 Policy framework for improving access to lung cancer care and treatment



KEY TAKEAWAY

Blended financing pathways may provide a pragmatic approach for managing uncertainty and improving sustainable access to immunotherapy in Thailand.

These strategies need to be further evaluated and refined in Thailand and other LMIC settings.

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