Management, assessment and use of medical devices in Vietnam: Early insights on value, access and processes in a highly complex health system

HPR17

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KEY MESSAGES

Vietnam has strengthened its medical device system, but key opportunities remain to enhance device identification, data integration, value assessment, procurement, and post-market surveillance. Addressing these through digital infrastructure, standardized device traceability, and evidence-informed value-based decision-making could improve safety, efficiency, access, affordability, transparency, and sustainability.

1 BACKGROUND

- Vietnam has made significant progress in health and healthcare access. Medical devices are increasingly important in Vietnam as healthcare demand rises alongside population ageing and non-communicable diseases [1].
- Vietnam's medical device market is growing rapidly, and >90% of devices are imported [3,4].
- Vietnam's medical device landscape remains complex, creating opportunities to strengthen transparency, evidence-informed value-based decision making, and lifecycle management.

100+ million population

~1 400 public and >350 private hospitals [2]

Device market USD 1.55 billion (2024) [3,4]

More than 90% of devices imported [3,4]

2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a preliminary descriptive overview of the current processes for managing, assessing, and using medical devices across their lifecycle in Vietnam.
2. Identify key challenges and potential opportunities to strengthen lifecycle management and support more value-based, evidence-informed decision making.

3 METHODS

A descriptive, exploratory synthesis was conducted by integrating a focused review of documents with qualitative insights from individual expert consultations and multi-stakeholder roundtable. Findings were triangulated and organised according to the medical device lifecycle to provide a preliminary overview of current processes, challenges, and opportunities in Vietnam.

Focused document review
Legal, policy, technical, market and international reference materials

13 individual expert consultations
Regulators, insurance, hospitals/doctors, procurement, academia, industry

1 multi-stakeholder roundtable
Discussion and contextualisation of emerging findings

Study scope: *This poster presents preliminary, descriptive observations based on document review and expert engagement. It is intended to stimulate discussion and future research rather than provide a comprehensive system assessment or official policy recommendations.*

4 RESULTS

The Medical Device Lifecycle in Vietnam

Key Challenges Identified

Key challenge identified	What it constrains
Lack sufficiently detailed identification system	Traceability and recall management
Lack integrated database across the lifecycle	Lifecycle management, data-informed decision making and monitoring
Lack clear criteria and methods for value-based assessment in procurement and reimbursement	Access, innovation and value
Challenges with reusable devices	Safety, pricing and assessment of reusable devices

Potential Solution Directions for Discussion

1. Comprehensive, standardized unique device identification system; and intergrated lifecycle database
2. Value-based evaluation methods and criteria, clearly distinguishing between procurement objectives and reimbursement objectives, with a tiered and flexible approach tailored to different technology groups and implementation capacities of institutions
3. Selective use of international evidence
4. Strengthening central management and coordination while allowing sufficient regional flexibility
5. Transitioning from document-based management toward digital system management
6. Specialized unit for health technology assessment

↻ ***Post-market utilisation and safety data should feed back into procurement, reimbursement and assessment decisions - the lifecycle is continuous, not a one-off approval.***

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

A more integrated, lifecycle and value-based approach could support transparent, evidence-informed decisions while improving access to innovation, affordability, safety and sustainability.

Next steps: Collaboration amongst health system stakeholders to inform value-based decision-making and the refinement of policies and management practices for medical devices in Vietnam

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