

Definition of a System of Factors to Improve the Quality of Decision-Making Process in Health Technology Assessment

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BACKGROUND

The shortcomings in the current HTA methods when making a decision are rather a formal assessment of most of the characteristics of the drug.

Decision of 102 proposals for inclusion in the EDL from 2019 to 2022 were analyzed. As a result, it was determined that 18 factors that formally should be assessed under consideration do not affect the decision of the commission. This can lead to subjective decision-making at the EDL pannel, especially since the discussion at the commission is not regulated and is chaotic.

Since transparency and objectification of the process in decision-making in the field of healthcare is becoming increasingly important, it is advisable to further improve the decision-making process on the inclusion of healthcare technologies in the EDL.

OBJECTIVE

To determine the degree of influence of factors on decision-making process in the healthcare sector, an econometric model was built.

Characteristics of experts who took part in the survey			
Organization	Experience in the field of healthcare		
	to 5 years	from 5 to 10 years	from 10 to 15 years
Pharmaceutical company	1	6	2
Educational organization	2		3
State organization	4	1	2
Educational, medical and state organization		1	1
Educational and medical organization		1	
Medical organization			1
All	7	9	9

RESULTS

An expert survey was conducted to determine the factors and their weights that should be considered while decision making on the governmental level. An invitation for the survey to establish rating for proposed factors was sent to 160 experts. 54 experts provided their answers of whom 14 did not complete the survey, so their results were not taken into further calculations.

To reduce the number of evaluated factors, those with share of less than 2.25% (fourth quartile) as the least significant, according to experts, were excluded from further analysis.

According to the analyzes clinical effectiveness is the most important criteria with 8.5% weight. Drug safety, quality of clinical study, added quality of life, cost-effectiveness and added life expectancy of patients have almost equal weights: from 7.6% to 7.9%, their ranking positions are the second to the sixth.

Current obligatory factors for EDL decision-making process that now have threshold scores, don't reach leading position in the expert survey and some of them weren't included in the final list of factors.

Thus, a new system of factors and their weights is proposed, which will increase the objectivity of the decision-making process in the health technology assessment.

Determination of a generalized expert assessment and weights		
No	Criteria	Weight
1	Clinical effectiveness of the drug	8,5%
2	Safety of the drug	7,9%
3	The quality of the clinical study	7,8%
4	The quality-adjusted life year (QALY)	7,7%
5	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER)	7,7%
6	Life Years Gained	7,6%
7	Budget impact: direct medical cost	6,5%
8	The presence in international clinical guidelines	6,3%
9	The risk of disability	6,3%
10	The presence in local clinical guidelines	5,6%
11	The availability of real-world evidence in other countries	4,2%
12	Indirect costs	3,8%
13	Possibility of use for children	3,5%
14	The cost of drug therapy	3,3%
15	New mechanism of action	2,6%
16	The need to control treatment	2,4%
17	The availability of local real-world evidence	2,4%
18	Method of administration of the drug	2,2%
19	The frequency of taking the drug	2,0%
20	The presence in the lists of reimbursement in other countries	1,8%