Does MCDA Lead to Better Patient Access in Africa? The case of Ethiopia

Daniel A Erku, BPharm, Ph.D. (C), President, ISPOR Ethiopia Chapter

Introduction

• Allocating Healthcare resources is complex and encompasses assessment of scientific evidence, clarification of priorities, value judgments and ethical considerations

• In most African countries, this complexity is exacerbated by lack of comprehensive policies and/or implementation barriers

MCDA

• Provides a framework for breaking down a complex decision into more manageable components, defining and understanding the relationship between these components.

• MCDA increases transparency and accountability in policymaking

MCDA in healthcare

• Support both clinical AND
• Managerial decision-making during complex problem solving.
Application of MCDA: Ethiopia’s road to Universal Health Coverage

• Overview of healthcare financing in Ethiopia
• HTA in Ethiopia

• Health policy in Ethiopia is in transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the more ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

• UHC is at the centre of the policy change

*Ethiopia’s Essential Health Services Packages (EHSP) 2005: Health Extension Program (HEP)*

**Proposed revision of EHSP**

Rationale
1. Value for money
2. Equity and fairness, and
3. Financial risk protection
The role of MCDA: Revising EHSP

Key points

• Ethiopia’s current policies on health priorities considers a number of important criteria, but in Ad hoc fashion. This could lead to

  ➢ Lack of transparency in the decision making process
  ➢ Evidence on all criteria is not always available
  ➢ Criteria are not equally important and may conflict with each other
Key points, cont’d

MCDA allows
➢ The identification of a comprehensive set of criteria
➢ Establishes the performance of interventions on those criteria in a so-called performance matrix, and
➢ Inspects the performance matrix qualitatively or quantitatively to rank order interventions

MCDA has been applied in few African countries

Opportunities and challenges
• Healthcare financing dependent on donor organisations
• Future directions