

Innovative Approaches to Link Health Technology Assessment to Policy

CHSRF 8th Annual Workshop
Innovation through Collaboration
March 22, 2006
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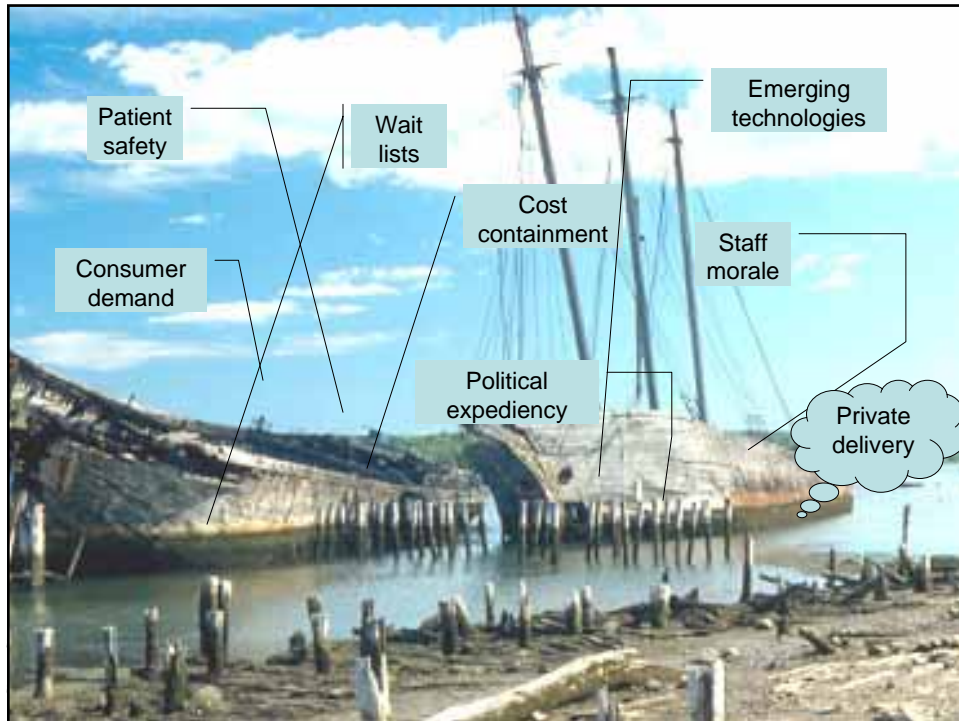


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Objectives

- What is HTA?
- Innovations in how, where and by whom HTA is being done
- Discussion of application to your contexts
- Exploration of future possibilities for innovation and collaboration

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What is HTA? (one definition)

Health technology assessment considers the effectiveness, appropriateness and cost of technologies, i.e:

- Does the technology work?
- for whom?
- at what cost?
- how does it compare with alternatives?

(UK National Health Service R&D Health Technology Assessment Programme 2003)

'Traditional' HTA

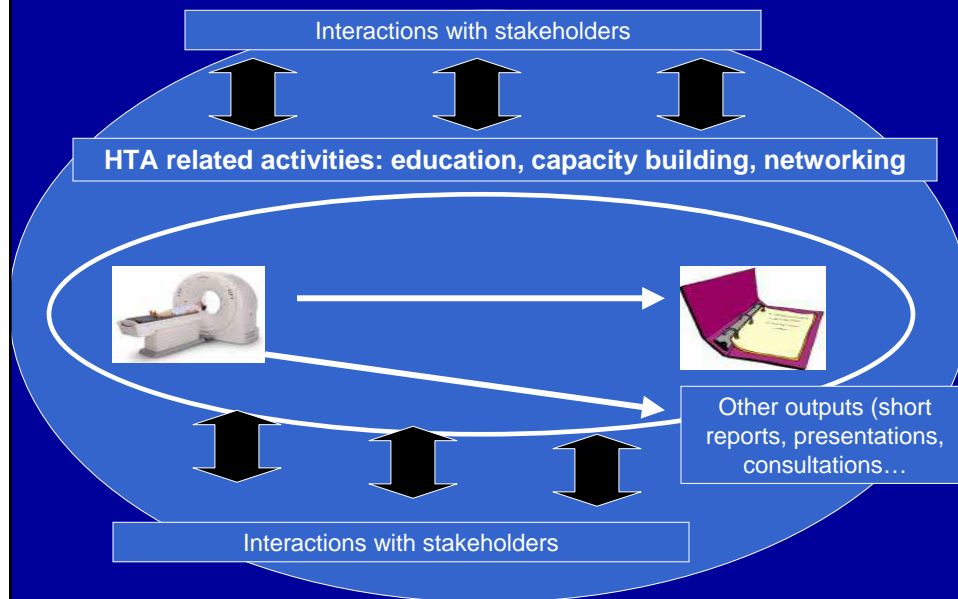
technology



report



Current HTA landscape



Who does HTA?

'Early' HTA organizations

- National
 - CCOHTA
- Provincial 'arms length' agencies
 - Alberta: AHFMR
 - Quebec AETMIS
 - (B.C.: BCOHTA
No longer functioning)

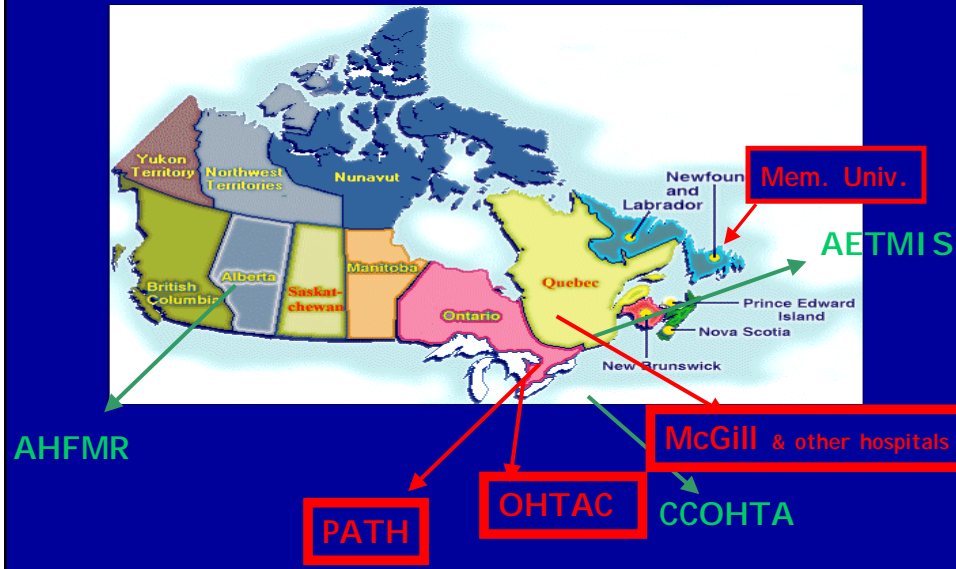


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CCOHTA

AETMIS

Recent HTA additions in Canada



Newer HTA organizations

- Provincial agency in Ministry of Health:

OHTAC



- University Hospital-based units

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- Hospital-university affiliated units



London Health Sciences Centre: Know4Go project

- Used for medications
- Attempts to integrate effectiveness, cost, opportunity cost, benefits, social and other relevant factors
- Charts potential products for comparison
- Wholistic approach rather than evaluating individual products in isolation



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Who else does HTA?

- Possible development of provincial groups to adapt HTAs from elsewhere (NFLD,maritimes.. ?)
- Much informal HTA done by decision-makers at clinical, hospital, regional and provincial levels with info on hand (with varying degrees of resources & organization)

New ways of doing HTA



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Diversification of HTA products

- Varied length and timelines for production, depending on case
- Informal consultations, presentations, etc.
- Rapid HTA, horizon scanning, just-in-time HTA, etc...
- Quality control: external review vs. expert opinion



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Example: 'Mini-HTA'

- Tool for conducting HTA adapted to organizations such as hospitals
- Developed by Danish HTA agency
- Form with categories to be completed

(Available at: www.inahta.org)



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Using frameworks for HTA

- STEEPLE
 - Social
 - Technological
 - Economic
 - Environmental
 - Political
 - Legal
 - Ethical
- Framework for regional health boards (Alberta)
- An analytical framework for immunization programs in Canada



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Collaborations/ networking



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Networks

- Alberta
 - Research Transfer Initiative
 - SEARCH Canada
- Quebec
 - Hospital-based HTA units
 - 'E-veilleur' news bulletin
 - 2 provincial conferences
 - University Health Networks (RUIS)



Collaboration in Alberta

- Capital Health
 - Office of Health and Innovation
- Calgary Health Region
 - Health technology implementation unit
- University of Alberta – PHS - HTA
- University of Calgary – CHS - CHAPS
- Institute of Health Economics (IHE)



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Innovation in Alberta

- Alberta health technology decision process
- Ambassador program
 - CCOHTA capacity building grant
- Palliser Project
 - Pilot underway
- Extend to other regions 2006/07



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HTA in Specialized areas

Development of expert groups in collaboration in specialized areas:

- Genetics
- Immunization
- Cardiology
- Cancer
- Non-malignant chronic pain management



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Other initiatives



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HTA mentorship

- Existing HTA organizations collaborating with startup of new ones
(Montreal: 2 university health centers comprising 7 hospitals)
- AHFMR HTA Professional Development Opportunity
– 6 months



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Training in HTA



- **Master's level programs**
(Ulysses, U of Alberta, PATH, Memorial Univ.)
- **Training programs for decision-makers**
(Extra program CHRFS)
- **On-line training**
 - for producers of HTA reports/ decision-makers (AETMIS)
- **Provincial/regional seminars/conferences**
 - (NFLD, Québec, UBC, maritimes)

Capacity-building in HTA

Many of these new innovative initiatives have been made possible due to grants from CCOHTA and CHSRF grants



The private sector

- Growing recognition of HTA (i.e. MEDEC)
- Adaptation due to existence of HTA (?)
- Transition towards research from marketing?
- Institute of Health Economics



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Breaking down silos



Obstacles to collaboration

- Don't know who is currently working on the subject of interest (sometimes even in the same province or institution!)
- Reluctance/risks of collaborating, i.e. confidential/politically sensitive information, need for formal agreements, etc.
- Geographical separation, extra time required to collaborate

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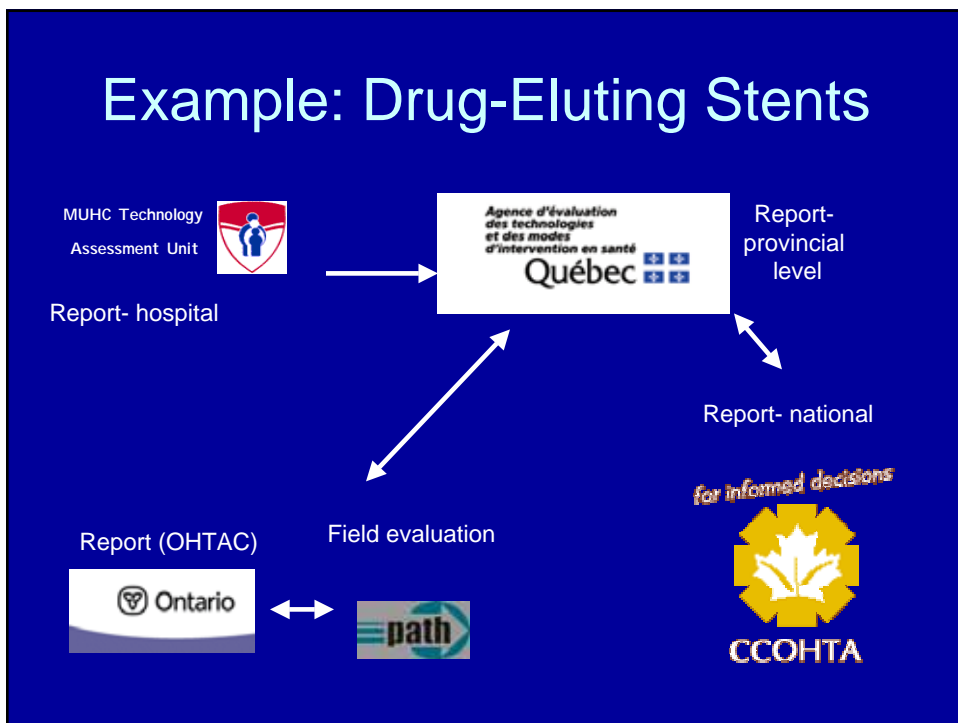
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Informal & Formal collaboration in HTA

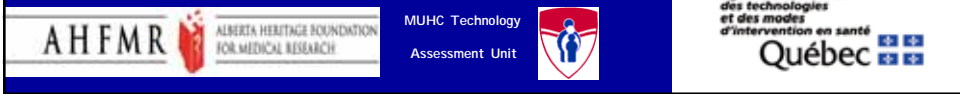


Example: Drug-Eluting Stents



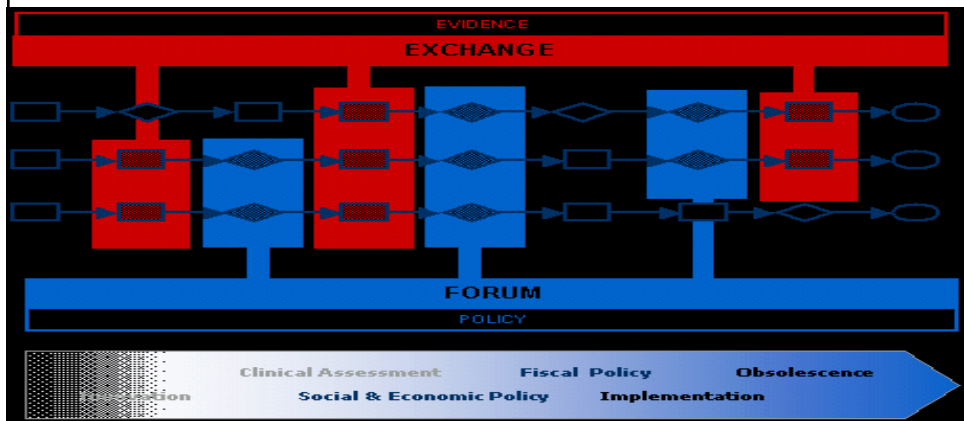
National HTA Strategy

- Aims to improve HTA capacity and coordination in Canada
- Policy issues-Policy Forum
 - Whipsawing (domino effect)
- Information management- The Exchange
- Lack of evidence of effectiveness- Field Evaluations



National HTA Forum & Exchange

- Mechanism to allow exchange on HTAs and policy
- Planned as part of National HTA strategy



Now what?

- Action-research, experimentation, pilot projects...
- get stakeholders together, identify needs, problems, discuss potential solutions, evaluate, modify and continue iterations.... ('PDSA')
- This approach works!



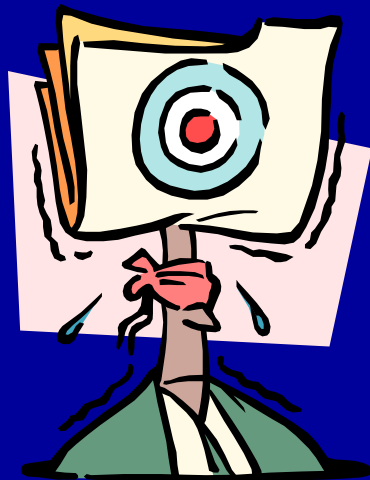
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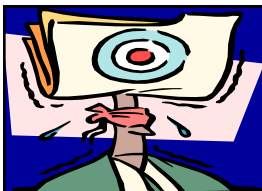
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Discussion

Discussion points:



1) How are HTA decisions made and HTA currently done in your local-provincial context?



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- 'don't know'
- black box
- some presentation & unstructured written presentation
- requirement for evaluation (e-health)
- pressure by clinicians & companies,&
- Public- media expectations
- On the fly- no transparency
- RCT vs. Other
- Broad context of HTA ?



Discussion
points:

**2) what are the current challenges
and needs in HTA in your setting?**



**2) what are the current
challenges and needs in
HTA in your setting?**

- **Capacity-building issue**
- **opportunity costs**
- **wholistic approach**
- **value judgements?**
- **Unresolved questions despite evidence...**
- **Coordination of efforts at higher levels**
- **CHSRF- raising awareness,
dissemination**



Discussion points:

3) what collaborations, initiatives and innovations in HTA should be tried in your local- reg-prov-national contexts?



3) what collaborations, initiatives and innovations in HTA should be tried in your local- reg-prov-national contexts?

- Expedited reviews, provisional reviews
- Awareness of various initiatives- networking successfully
- Electronic networks
- register projects...
- specialization of centres (niches?)
- problem-solving- around common issues
- Clarify HTA terminology, jargon

