

Charting A Sustainable Way To Subsidize Implants In Singapore

Swee Sung SOON¹, Wayne DING¹, Yen Ee WONG¹, Yan Teck HO¹, Lydia OOI¹, Rachel SEE-TOH¹, Ada PM BATCAGAN-ABUEG¹, Jun Yi HO¹, Foo Eng LOW¹, Bindhu UNNI¹, Hua Pey GAN¹, Chong Ye YEO¹, Jeshuan HENG¹, Sarah CHEW¹, Qinyi LIM¹, Elysia LIM¹, Zhen Long NG¹, Jaryl NG¹, Hong JU¹, Kwong NG¹

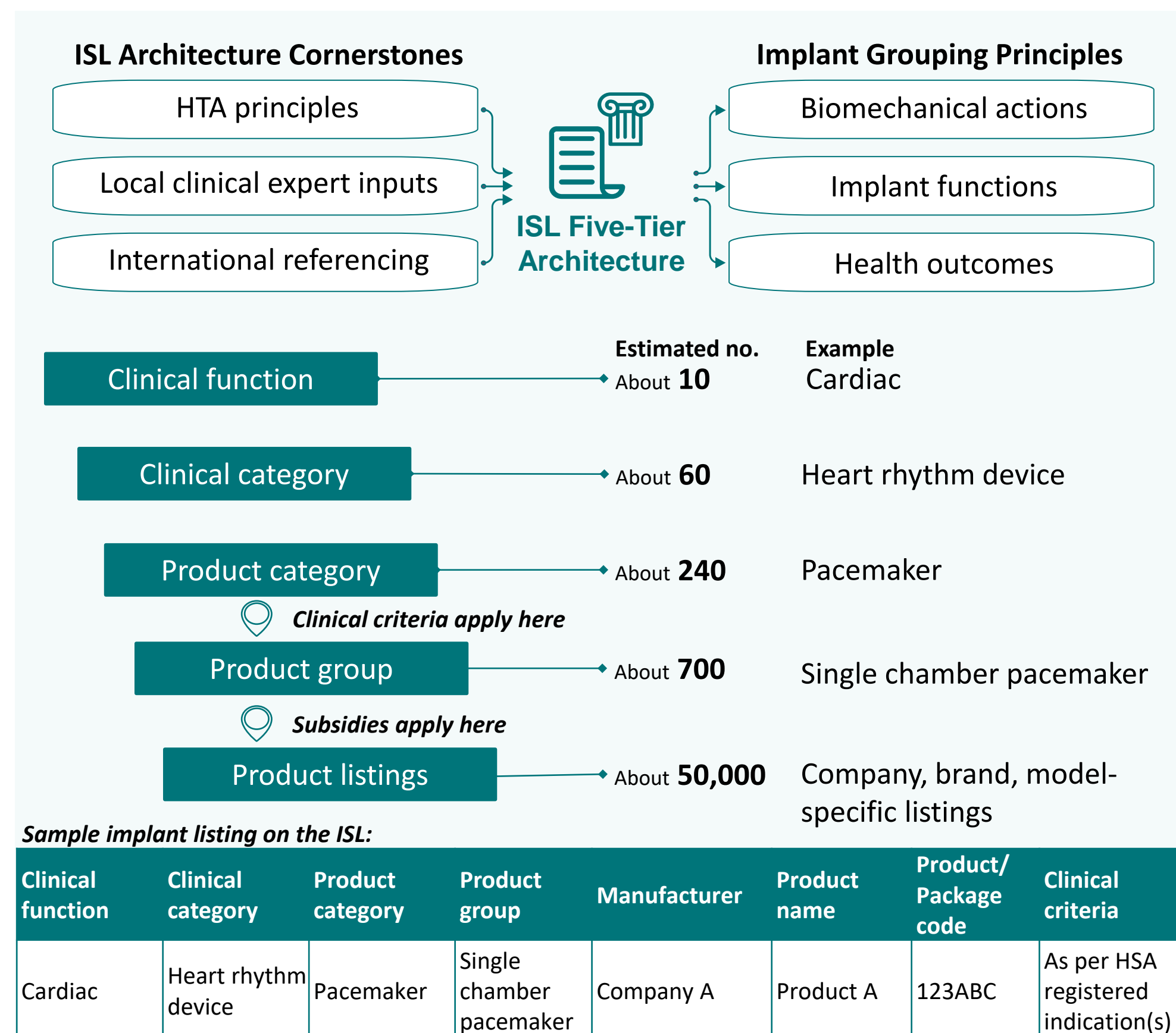
¹Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE), Ministry of Health, Singapore

Introduction

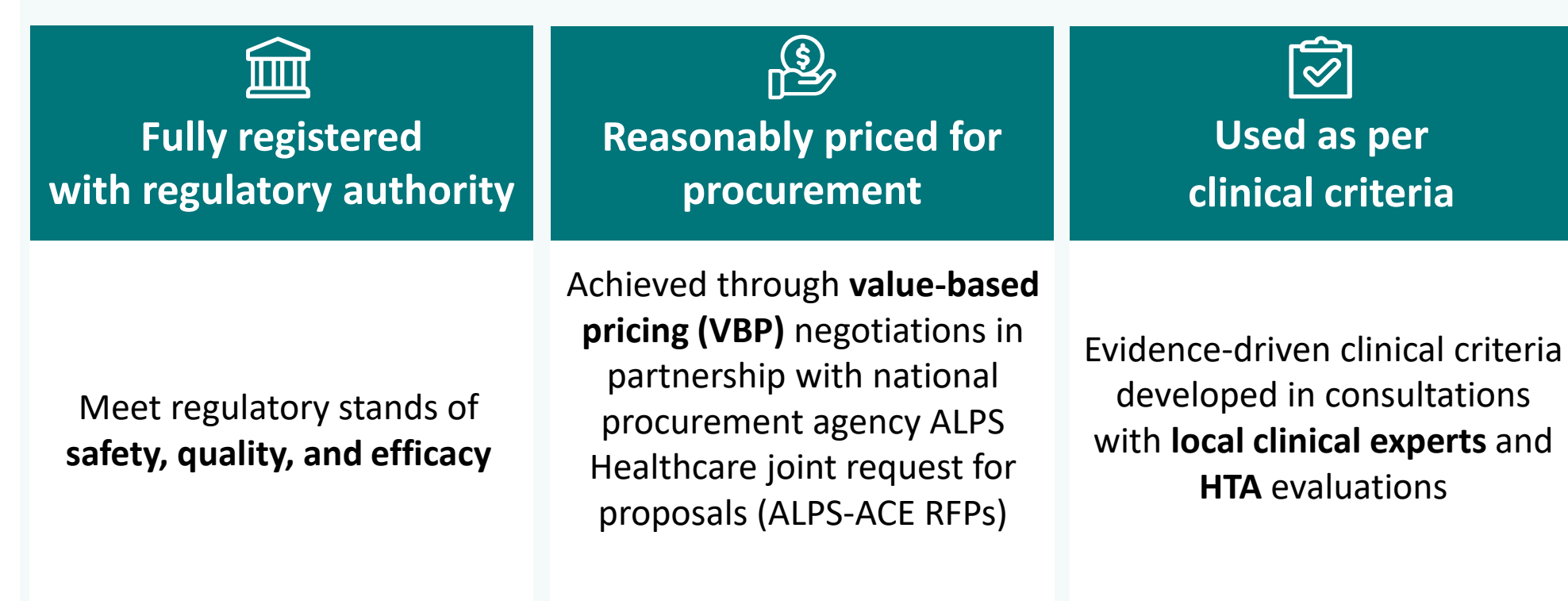
Implants are a heterogeneous class of medical technology with limited application of health technology assessment (HTA). Combined with rising and disparate costs, they pose a challenge for fair and sustainable subsidies in Singapore's public healthcare institutions (PHIs). This poster outlines the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)'s Implant Subsidy List (ISL) methodology and key enablers supporting government subsidies for clinically- and cost-effective implants.

Methods

The ISL is anchored by the five-tier architecture, allowing parsimonious classification of implants:



Implants are required to fulfil three prerequisites before they are considered for ISL listings:



While new implant topics are progressively added to the ISL, the list is also updated three times a year to ensure its currency under the Model Update Process (MUP).



Results

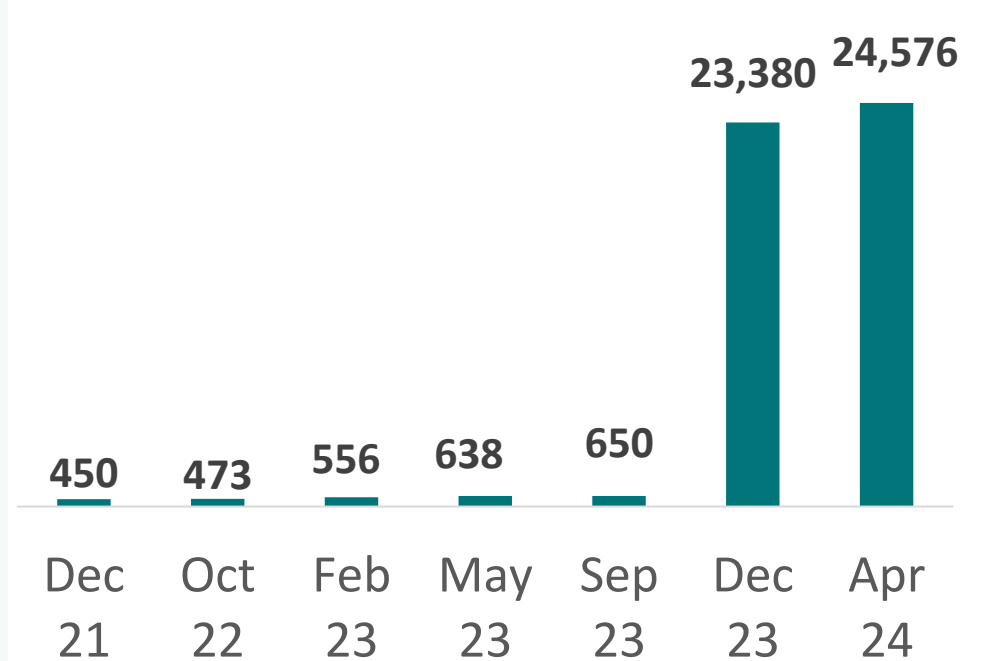
The ISL began its pilot in 2021 with 450 listings and grew to 22,689 listings in its implementation on 1 Dec 2023. As of Apr 2024, a total of 24,576 implants listed in the ISL, out of the 44,531 implants evaluated by ACE. These 24,576 implants, spanning 176 product groups and 17 implant topics, were assessed to be clinically and cost-effective in the local context.

- ### Current Composition of the ISL
- Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices
 - Active Middle Ear Implants
 - Bone Conduction Hearing Implants
 - Cochlear Implants
 - Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation Devices
 - Transcatheter Mitral Valve Leaflet Repair Devices
 - Ossicular Middle Ear Implants
 - Hip, Knee and Sports Medicine Implants
 - Interventional Cardiology Implants
 - Aortic Implants
 - Glaucoma Treatment Implants
 - Intraocular Lens
 - Urogenital Implants
 - Gastroenterology Implants
 - Vascular Patency and Embolic Management Implants
 - Vascular Occlusion, Access and Closure Implants
 - Neurovascular Implants

QR code to the MOH ISL website



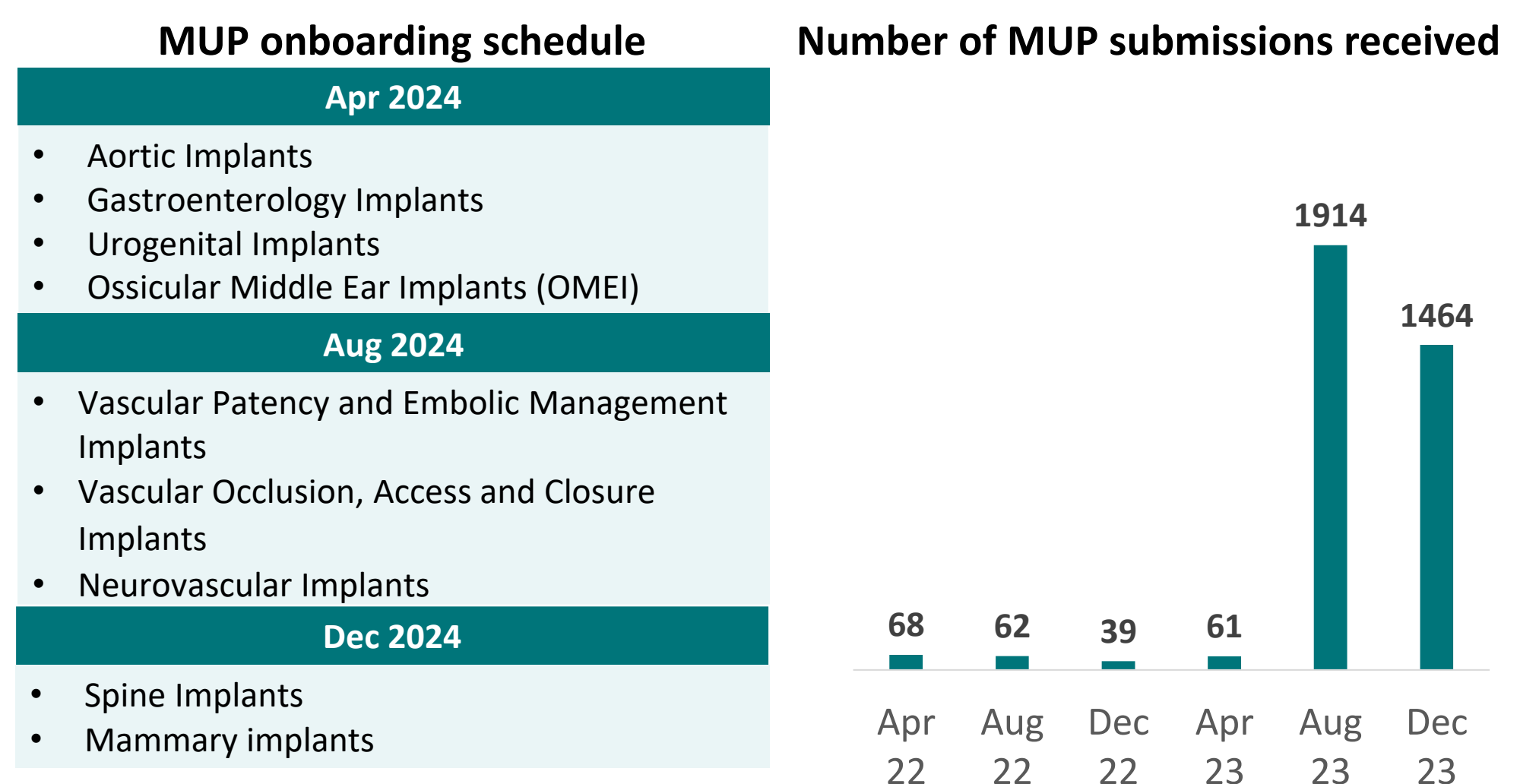
Number of ISL implant listings



The ISL will continue to grow with more implant topics currently undergoing joint ALPS-ACE RFP

- ### Implant topics currently undergoing joint ALPS-ACE RFP
- Craniomaxillofacial and Oculoplastic Implants
 - Dermal Substitutes
 - Brachytherapy Implants
 - Trauma Implants and Joint (including shoulder, elbow, wrist, finger, ankle, foot) Replacement Implants
 - Nerve Stimulation - Deep Brain & Vagal Nerve
 - Nerve Stimulation - Spinal Cord
 - Dural Patch & Aneurysm Clips

The number of MUP line items submissions has increased more than 20 folds between Apr 2022 and Dec 2023. To ensure the sustainable processing pace, MUP typically commences about 6 months after the implants are listed. In addition, ACE publishes the new implants eligible for MUP to give eligible companies sufficient lead time.



Conclusion

The ISL five-tier architecture standardizes implant classification, enables scalable application of HTA, drives appropriate use of subsidized implants, and bring cost sustainability to government subsidy of implants in Singapore.