

Evolution of national drug evaluation processes in Singapore

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1 INTRODUCTION

- The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established in August 2015 as the national health technology assessment (HTA) agency in Singapore to guide health policy, drive appropriate use of treatments and inform technology subsidy decisions.

2 METHOD

- Standardised technical evaluation methods and processes underpinning topic selection, evidence generation and critical appraisal of drugs were developed in line with international best practice and contextualised to the Singapore setting (Fig. 2).
- Decision-making criteria were defined to guide subsidy deliberations and improve consistency and transparency across recommendations (Fig. 3).
- Processes were also established to increase stakeholder engagement (Fig. 1) during evaluations and enable companies to submit pricing proposals to improve the affordability of treatments for patients and the public health care system.

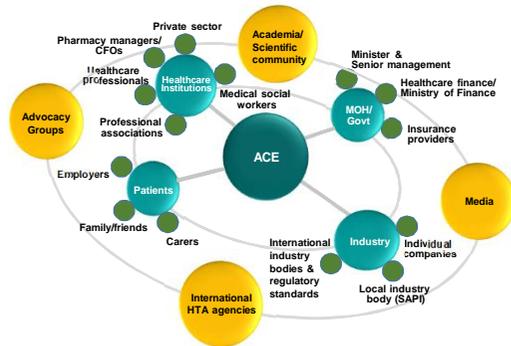


Figure 1: ACE's stakeholders

3 RESULTS

- From Jan 2016 to Dec 2017, ACE completed 30 evaluations covering 52 drugs to inform the MOH Drug Advisory Committee's (DAC) subsidy deliberations. Positive subsidy decisions were made for 23 drugs.
- The DAC's rationale for each decision and a brief summary of key clinical and economic evidence which informed their recommendations were documented in 20 guidance documents: 14 have been published on ACE's website to date to guide appropriate prescribing behaviours (6 are pending publication).
- Price proposals from companies to achieve subsidy for their drugs led to price reductions of up to 55% from existing cost prices. ACE's HTA work has assisted MOH target funding to cost-effective drugs to optimise health benefits within finite resources.

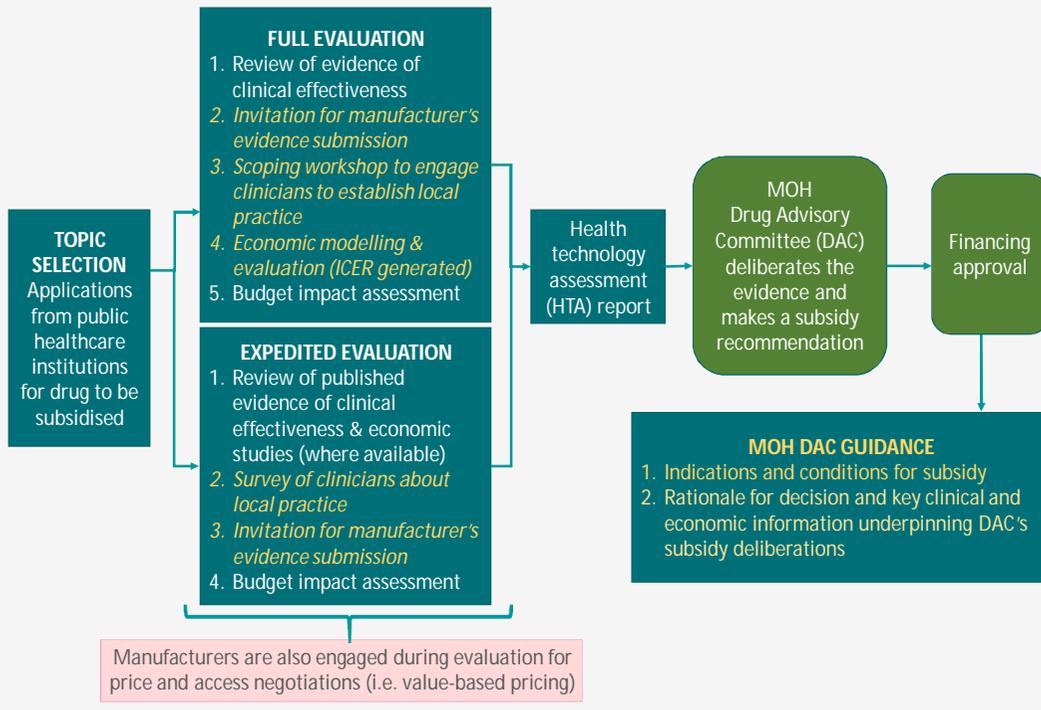


Figure 2: ACE's drug evaluation process from topic selection to production of guidance with subsidy recommendations

4 DISCUSSION

- While HTA to inform evidence-based decision-making in Singapore has achieved considerable progress, monitoring the impact of policy decisions resulting from ACE's evaluations and changes in prescriber behaviours is challenging.
- Comprehensive program evaluation capabilities to measure HTA impact and patient outcomes need to be established.

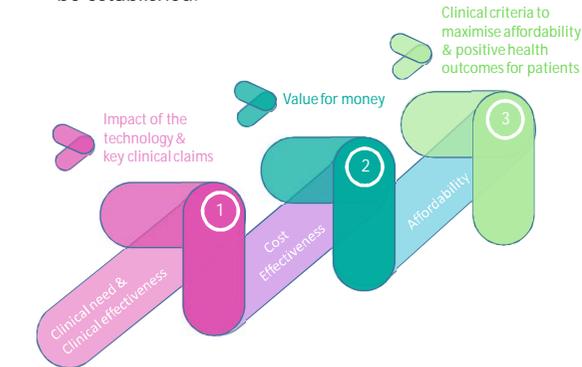


Figure 3: Decision-making criteria considered sequentially

5 CONCLUSION

- National HTA efforts are currently focused on informing subsidy decision-making and improving access to cost-effective drugs.
- To achieve greater impact, Singapore needs to expand its HTA capacity beyond decision-making to drive appropriate care in a sustainable manner for future generations.
- ACE's methods and processes will be continually improved to ensure that they remain relevant and address the needs of all stakeholders.