



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
POLICY COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: Health Authorities

TRANSMITTAL DATE: September 2013

COMMUNIQUÉ NUMBER: 2013-13

CLIFF NUMBER: 990687

SUBJECT: Provincial Health Technology Review (Non-Drug, Non-IT)

DETAILS: See attached.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

MINISTRY CONTACT: Director, Business Transformation, Planning and Innovation
Division, Ministry of Health

Stephen Brown
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

BACKGROUND

- The British Columbia Health Technology Review was established by Leadership Council to provide evidence-informed recommendations about the public provision of new health technologies (non-drug, non-IT). Recommendations are intended to contribute to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of British Columbians and provide value for money.
- Health Technology Review recommendations are developed via health technology assessment, which is the evaluation of the clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and broader effect of medical technologies, both on patient health and the health care system.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) setting out the terms of cooperation, agreement and expectations for a provincial non-drug health technology assessment process (i.e., the Health Technology Review) was signed by health authority CEOs and the Deputy Minister of Health in November 2011. In the MOU, the health authorities agreed to the following key elements of the agreement:
 - A Health Technology Assessment Committee has been established, and is composed of representatives from the health authorities, Ministry of Health, and Health Shared Services British Columbia, as well a health technology assessment expert, health economist, ethicist, physician, and public member.
 - The process applies to all new non-drug technologies (tools, devices, diagnostics, and procedures) under consideration for public funding that meet the cost threshold of \$25,000 per unit or \$1,000,000 across the province. Other technologies will be reviewed by the Health Technology Assessment Committee at the request of Leadership Council or the Deputy Minister of Health.
 - All health authorities agree to use this process for all technologies (within scope) and not introduce any technologies unless they have been reviewed by this process, except on a research project / clinical trial basis.
 - Any non-drug research projects / clinical trials undertaken within health authorities are expected to involve technologies that may potentially require review provincially at some point in the future. As such, it is expected that projects will provide a robust evaluation of the technology being implemented on a trial basis, including patient outcomes.
- A parallel process at Health Shared Services BC considers health technologies out of scope for the Health Technology Review.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To ensure that decisions about public provision of non-drug health technologies are evidence-informed, transparent, and consistent across health authorities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and all regional health authorities in British Columbia, including affiliated denominational facilities.

POLICY

1. Health technologies within scope are to be submitted to the Health Technology Review.
2. Health Technology Assessment Committee recommendations accepted by Leadership Council will be transmitted to health authorities via policy communiqués for information and action.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Those who wish to have a technology within scope considered for public provision should complete an Expression of Interest screening form. All Expressions of Interest must have approval and sign off at the health authority vice-president level before being submitted to the Health Technology Assessment Committee member for review. If the technology is screened in, the requestor will be asked to prepare a business case for review by the Committee.

Further information about the submission process, including the expression of interest form and the business case template, is available on the Health Technology Review website, at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/htr/.

A list of Health Technology Assessment Committee members is also available on the Health Technology Review website, at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/htr/committee.html.

REVIEW

Leadership Council decisions are considered final. Should new evidence become available regarding a technology that was reviewed, the technology may be eligible to re-enter the health technology review process.