

Memorandum of Understanding

British Columbia Health Technology (Non-Drug) Decision-Making Process Memorandum of Understanding

898583

Context

This document sets out the terms of cooperation, agreement and expectations related to the provincial non-drug Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process between the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) and the provinces six health authorities (the health authorities) which include: Fraser Health Authority (FHA), Interior Health Authority (IHA), Northern Health Authority (NHA), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA), and Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

The executive sponsors of the project are the Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Innovation Division, Ministry of Health, the President and Chief Executive Officer, FHA, and the President and Chief Executive Officer, VIHA. The executive sponsors will provide ongoing advice and direction throughout the planning and implementation phases of the project and will be responsible to update Leadership Council on progress.

Process Principles

The province seeks to provide coverage for technologies that support the health and well being of British Columbians and provide value for money. All parties are committed to the adoption of a non-drug health technology approval process, namely determining which technologies will be covered by public funds. The proposed HTA process would:

- Support health authorities, the Ministry and the Minister to make evidence-informed decisions in a timely manner;
- Balance the need to constrain health care costs with opportunities to improve health outcomes;
- Promote standardization of technologies across the province where warranted;
- Promote the health and safety of British Columbians; and
- Provide a mechanism to consider coverage in limited circumstances for some new technologies that do not have long term evidence in order to develop evidence/data.

Process Parameters

Health authorities will be expected to submit for review all new technologies within the scope of the assessment process and comply with Leadership Council's decisions regarding the technologies. In cases where a health authority wishes to submit for consideration a technology that is outside the scope of the process, such requests will be brought to Leadership Council. Similarly, the Deputy Minister may identify technologies for review which have not been identified by a health authority. The Deputy Minister and/or Leadership Council may also request that the HTA Committee urgently review a technology.

Leadership Council will have the option to place technologies on a list for future consideration if funds are not available at the time of review. Where possible, hospital foundations, charities and donors should be made aware of the list of approved technologies and where appropriate encouraged to select technologies from the list. Donors should be advised of the evidence-informed nature of the process and be encouraged to respect Leadership Council decisions.

The assessment process will rely as much as possible on reviews by existing reputable health technology agencies for the assessment and review of the safety, clinical and cost effectiveness of technologies. A request will be also made to the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology Assessment in Health (CADTH) to conduct a rapid review of the technology. The rapid review should be submitted as part of the business case by the health authority requestor.

Health Shared Services British Columbia (HSSBC), a division of PHSA, is accountable for the provision of supply chain services to health authorities and has an important role in the selection of and contracting for supplies and equipment across the province. Given the alignment of HSSBC objectives and the non-drug HTA process, HSSBC will be an important partner and committee member. To ensure that HSSBC does not purchase technologies within the scope of the HTA process which require a review or have not met the criteria for public funding, HSSBC will be advised of pending reviews and final decisions. In some cases it may be necessary for HSSBC to work with the Ministry and health authorities to identify items which may require review.

Health Technology Assessment Committee

As part of the assessment of health technologies, a HTA Committee will be struck to assess the available evidence on clinical and cost effectiveness, as well as the business case submitted by the health authorities. Based on this information the HTA Committee will make a recommendation to Leadership Council as to whether there is sufficient evidence to support publicly funding a technology. The HTA Committee will also provide recommendations about the circumstances under which provision should occur. Leadership Council will make a decision regarding funding the health technology following review of the HTA Committee's recommendations. The HTA Committee will most frequently review new technologies; however, in some cases it may be necessary to evaluate existing technologies already in use the province.

The Ministry and each health authority will have representation on the HTA Committee. The HTA Committee will be supported by a Secretariat which will be tasked with providing administrative support to the HTA Committee.

Research Projects

Health authorities agree that no new non-drug health technologies (within scope) will be publicly provided without submission through the non-drug HTA decision-making process with the exception of those being assessed for the purposes of research. Participation in the provincial HTA process will not place new restrictions on health authority decisions related to participation in, or funding of research projects / clinical trials. Research projects are expected to adhere to best practices and standards to ensure that high quality outcome evidence is collected that can be

used in the provincial decision-making process should the technology be submitted for province-wide coverage at a later date. Information on the evidence requirements and evaluation criteria used by the committee to make public provision recommendations will be readily available.

Agreement Tenets

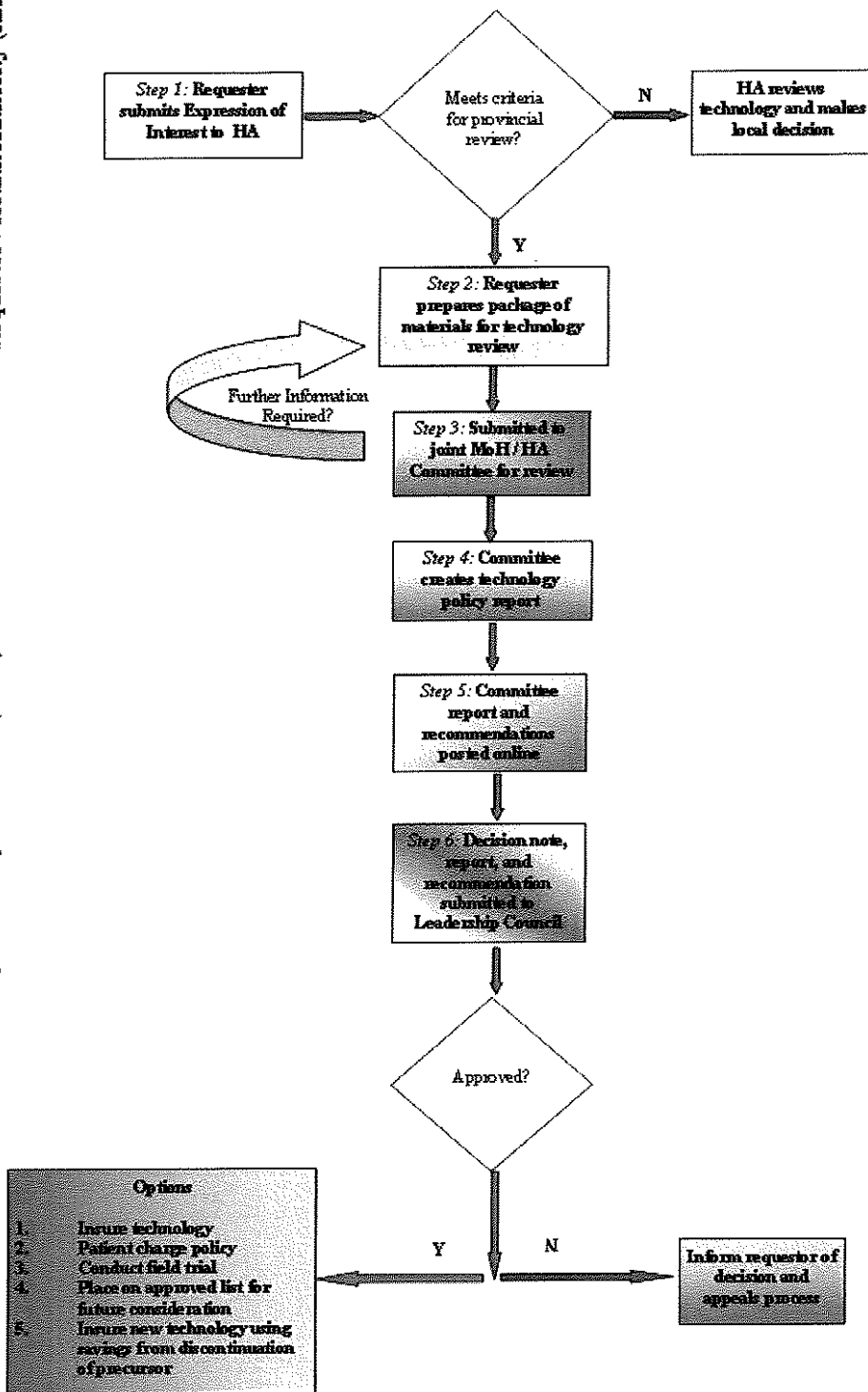
Health Authorities agree to the following tenets of the process:

1. The process will be applied for 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. Technologies reviewed in this process should be transformative (with the potential to meet an unmet need, and /or replace an insured device or procedure etc...) rather than incremental (changes in technique or an incremental modification of an existing device). Other technologies will be reviewed by the Committee at the request of Leadership Council or the Deputy Minister of Health.
2. 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, unless on a research project / clinical trial basis.
3. 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. Information on the evidence requirements and evaluation criteria used by the committee to make public provision recommendations will be readily available.
4. Leadership Council decisions are considered final. Should new evidence become available after a decision has been made, the technology would be eligible to re-enter the review process.
5. Committee Composition:
 - Health Technology Assessment Experts (1)
 - Health Economist (1)
 - Ethicist (1)
 - Physician (1)
 - Public Member (1)
 - Health Authority Representatives designated by Leadership Council (6)
 - Health Shared Services British Columbia (1)
 - Ministry Representatives (3)
6. The Ministry will provide secretariat support for the process. Health Authorities agree to fund the administrative costs of the committee including paying fees and travel costs for non-government members.
7. Evidence Informed Decision-Making Process as outlined below:

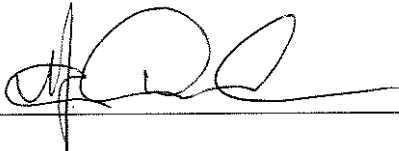
Health Technology Assessment Process

Requestor / Health Authority (HA)

Health Authority / Ministry of Health (MoH)



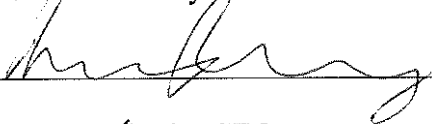
Leadership Council will receive ongoing updates on the status of process implementation and will be consulted when strategic direction is required. Should disagreement arise between any of the parties involved regarding participation, implementation or scope of the project, Leadership Council or the Chair of Leadership Council, the Deputy Minister of Health will provide guidance and may if necessary decide how to proceed. The process will be implemented in January 2012.



Health Authority CEO

18/11/2011

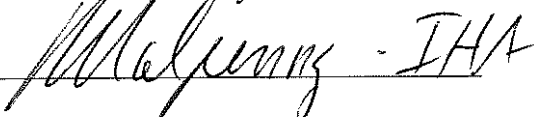
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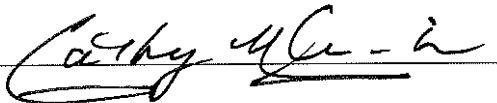
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Health Authority CEO

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Date



Health Authority CEO

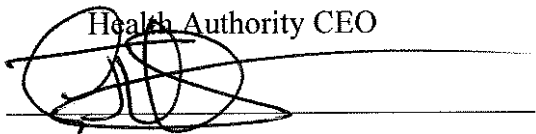
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Nov 18/2011

Health Authority CEO



Date

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Deputy Minister of Health

Date