

Policy Directive: compliance is mandatory

Health Technology Assessment Policy Directive

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Summary	<p>Clinical innovation, quality and efficiency in health care provision are supported through the availability of safe, effective and cost-effective health technologies within SA Health.</p> <p>The Health Technology Assessment Policy Directive outlines a framework for robust evaluation and governance processes for health technologies comprising a referral to the South Australian Policy Advisory Committee on Health Technology (SAPACT) for those which are high-risk, high cost or include statewide planning implications.</p>
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Policy history	<p>Is this a new policy? Y</p> <p>Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? N</p> <p>Does this policy replace an existing policy? Y</p> <p>Policy for Introduction of New Health Technologies into the SA Public Health System G002</p>
Applies to	All SA Health Portfolio
Staff impacted	All Staff, Management, Admin, Students; Volunteers
EPAS compatible	NA
Registered with Divisional Policy	No
Contact Officer	
Policy doc reference no.	D0378

Version control and change history

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	23/04/2015	current	Original version

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Health Technology Assessment Policy Directive



Government
of South Australia

SA Health

Document control information

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18/05/2015	Director, Medicines and Technology, Policy and Programs	V1.0	

Endorsements

Date	Endorsed by
14/11/2014	The South Australian Policy Advisory Committee on Technology.

Approvals

Date	Approved by
23/04/2015	Portfolio Executive

Health Technology Assessment Policy Directive

1. Objective

To support clinical innovation, quality and efficiency in health care provision through the availability of safe, effective and cost-effective health technologies within SA Health. This policy outlines a framework for robust evaluation and governance processes for health technologies comprising a referral to the South Australian Policy Advisory Committee on Health Technology (SAPACT) for those which are high-risk, high cost or include statewide planning implications.

The SAPACT is an advisory committee to the South Australian Department of Health and Ageing; and oversees the state-wide governance for Health Technology Assessment (HTA), undertakes analysis and provides policy advice and recommendations in relation to the safety, effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness of new and existing health technologies across SA Health.

2. Scope

All SA Health employees or persons who provide health services on behalf of SA Health must adhere to this Policy.

This Policy Directive applies to new and existing health technologies.

Health technologies comprise diagnostic and treatment interventions including diagnostic test, prostheses, implantable devices and medical and surgical procedures (where these not already subject to assessment via other pathways, for example the medicines, biomedical engineering, pathology, radiology or blood and tissue product assessment pathways).

3. Principles

The policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- Innovations in health technology can lead to significant improvements in patient outcomes, quality-of-care and the efficiency of health service provision.
- Continued demand for innovation has a significant impact on health care costs, highlighting the need for rigorous process for evaluation and selection to ensure efficient investment of resources and sustainability of health care through access to safe, effective and cost-effective technologies.
- A governance framework for the identification, evaluation and controlled introduction of health technologies includes delegation of decision-making to the appropriate level recognising Local Health Network (LHN) processes and policies; and ensuring statewide assessment for high-risk and high cost technologies and those with statewide service planning implications.
- Consistency in the implementation and monitoring of health technologies across SA Health.
- Identification of potential areas of dis-investment is considered to accommodate evolving clinical practice and health service provision.

The policy framework is underpinned by four themes to promote effective HTA and equity-of-access across SA Health:

- Integration and coordination;
- Clinician engagement;
- Information sharing; and
- Program evaluation.

These principles ensure:

- engagement of clinicians and Clinical Networks to facilitate appropriate decision-making for quality patient care and sustainable innovation in the health care system;
- the use of HTA as a tool for value-based decision-making in health care;
- sharing of information to identify areas of mutual interest and national activity
- processes integrate well with:
 - service review and planning;
 - credentialing and scope of practice processes;
 - ethics approval processes; and
 - procurement processes.
- Referral to national assessment processes and sharing of information is promoted.

4. Detail

Health technologies provide an opportunity for innovation and improved quality in health care. In addition, health technology represents the predominant driver of the increased cost of health care, especially in the context of the ageing South Australian population. As a result, governance concerning health technologies ensures maintenance of the safety and quality of health care, as well as equity-of-access, service efficiency and sustainability of health services.

Effective governance of health technologies within SA Health relies on processes at both LHN and statewide-level.

The SAPACT is an expert advisory committee of The South Australian Department for Health and Ageing. The SAPACT oversees statewide governance for HTA, undertakes analysis and provides policy advice and recommendations in relation to the safety, effectiveness and the cost-effectiveness of new and existing health technologies across SA Health. Through a systematic and integrated approach, the aim is to promote equity-of-access to treatment innovations in-line with clinical service planning, workforce developments and efficient use of resources within the South Australian Public Health System.

Under this policy, certain health technologies must be referred for evaluation by the SAPACT prior to use in SA. The referral process for health technologies are defined according to the predicted health expenditure, risk to patients, or service, workforce planning or infrastructure considerations of a technology.

Consistent with approach, parameters for referral of health technology to SAPACT are:

- High cost in which predicted expenditure is:
 - ≥\$100,000 for a LHN per year;
 - ≥\$300,000 within the South Australian Public Health System per year; and
- High-risk where the technology is TGA Class III or an Active Implantable Medical Device (AIMD) regardless of anticipated expenditure associated with use.
- Health technologies for which there are statewide service planning implications.
 - N.B. High-volume, low-cost health technologies are generally exempt from SAPACT assessment and are currently encompassed in other procurement and assessment processes.

Submissions arise from clinicians and Clinical Networks and other statewide groups (as relevant). Consultation and clinician input are key factors and there is opportunity for the applicant (s) to present to the Committee. The LHNs assessment and governance processes at the local level support referral to SAPACT for evaluation as per the parameters above. Figure 1 outlines the referral pathway for health technologies.

A successfully integrated governance model for HTA across SA Health is supported by the SAPACT through access to technical expertise, education and information sharing. This includes local and national technology assessments and input regarding priorities for SA Health to the national processes and committees including HealthPACT and the TGA.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The outlined roles and responsibilities prescribe a delegated hierarchy for decision-making regarding health technologies within SA Health to ensure coordinated governance arrangements.

5.1 Chief Executive, SA Health will

- ensure SA Health services are aware of and comply with this Policy Directive.

5.2 The Director of, Medicines and Technology Policy and Programs will

- establish, maintain and periodically review the HTA in SA Health Policy Directive and supporting guidelines;
- support development and implementation of a statewide policy framework for assessment of health technologies which are high-risk and high cost or those with statewide service planning implications;
- ensure HTA processes support service planning and development as required;
- identify and/or develop necessary resources and tools to support the use of health technology assessment across SA Health including referral to national and international HTA groups; and
- provide advice to health services in relation to specific queries regarding high-risk and high cost health technologies and health technology assessment.

5.3 Local Health Network and Statewide Services Chief Executive Officers will

- ensure appropriate processes are in place for the identification, assessment and monitored introduction of health technologies within their LHN;
- delegate the day-to-day responsibility for complying with this policy to the relevant LHN Committee or the relevant senior managers;
- ensure the health services under their administration have systems in place:
 - to identify high-risk and high cost health technologies and ensure their referral to local and/or statewide decision-making processes as mandated by this Policy Directive; and
 - which facilitate effective management and notification of high-risk health technology incidents (in accordance with the SA Health Incident Management Policy and Guideline and Safety Learning System).
- ensure that prior to purchasing or entering into a procurement process, the proposed in scope health technologies are referred to SAPACT as directed by this Policy Directive.

5.4 Chair, Local Health Network based committees or equivalent senior managers will

- Develop and implement appropriate processes for the identification, assessment and monitored introduction of health technologies within their LHN;

- Refer to SAPACT for assessment , those health technologies for which the local decision-making Committee or equivalent has:
 - received an application for the use within their LHN;
 - considered high-risk, high cost or with potential for statewide implications according to the parameters as defined in this policy directive

5.5 Executive Directors, Directors, heads of service/departments and other senior managers will

- ensure compliance with the requirements of the Policy Directive as appropriate within their service responsibilities
- ensure that prior to purchasing or entering into a procurement process, the proposed in scope health technologies are referred to SAPACT as directed by this Policy Directive.
- ensure credentialing and scope of practice requirements are addressed and in compliance with requirements for safe use of health technologies; and promote staff awareness of the local and statewide processes for assessing health technologies, and their compliance with the Policy Directive.

5.6 All SA Health employees will

- ensure they are familiar and comply with the requirements of the Policy Directive and governance framework for health technologies as relevant to their area of practice /service;
- participate in education or training to ensure they have knowledge and skills relevant to their role in the safe management of health technologies.
- report incidents involving health technologies in accordance with the SA Health Incident Management Policy Directive and Safety Learning System requirements;

6. Reporting

Incidents or adverse events relating to the use of health technologies are reported according to the SA Health Incident Management Policy and Guideline and Safety Learning System.

7. EPAS Considerations

Not applicable

8. Exemptions

No exemptions applicable.

9. Associated Policy Directives / Policy Guidelines

Policy Guideline for Health Technology Assessment in SA Health, 2014

10. References, Resources and Related Documents











The following are related documents:

- SAPACT Application form: health technology assessment
- The South Australian Policy Advisory Committee on Technology - Terms of Reference

11. Other

Not applicable.

12. National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

									
National Standard 1	National Standard 2	National Standard 3	National Standard 4	National Standard 5	National Standard 6	National Standard 7	National Standard 8	National Standard 9	National Standard 10
Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Care	Partnering with Consumers	Preventing & Controlling Healthcare associated infections	Medication Safety	Patient Identification & Procedure Matching	Clinical Handover	Blood and Blood Products	Preventing & Managing Pressure Injuries	Recognising & Responding to Clinical Deterioration	Preventing Falls & Harm from Falls
✓									

13. Evaluation of Performance and Compliance

Compliance with the Health Technology Assessment in SA Health Policy Directive will be monitored by the Medicines and Technology Policy and Programs Branch through LHN reporting to the SAPACT.

14. Attachments

1. Referral pathway for applications to the SAPACT, 2014.

15. Definitions

Health technology assessment (HTA): is a tool for informing effective regulation of health technologies through systematic examination of the medical, economic, social, and ethical implications of the incremental value, diffusion, and use of a technology in health care. HTA provides the information necessary to understand the benefits and comparative value of health technologies to inform policy, funding and clinical decisions, and assist with consumer decision-making.

SAPACT: is the South Australian Policy Advisory Committee on Technology.

High cost health technology: refers to a technology for which predicted expenditure is greater than or equal to \$100,000 per LHN or \$300,000 statewide.

High-risk health technology: refers to a technology which is classified by the Therapeutics Goods Administration as Class III or an active implantable medical device (AIMD).

LHN: Local Health Network.

Figure 1 SAPACT health technology referral pathway

