

Conclusions. Based on the gathered information and the agreement of the all members, we developed a toolkit embracing a group of standards for the joint activities within the Spanish Network, network administration and management. It is a complementary instrument of the previous self-evaluating tool, following the establishment of an overall quality management system and under the philosophy of continuous improvement processes.

OP170 How Can Health Technology Assessment Participate In The Healthcare Quality Improvement?

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Introduction. Providing high-quality and affordable care is a big challenge facing policy makers, especially in low and middle income countries (LMIC). The purpose of this presentation is to illustrate how health technology assessment (HTA) benefits the improvement of the healthcare quality, and to highlight the fact that HTA domains match to the dimensions of health quality: safety, effectiveness, efficiency and patient-centeredness.

Methods. This presentation will be based on explaining the ability of HTA to improve the quality of healthcare. Some countries, mainly LMIC where resources are limited, do not have formal HTA whose goal is to inform the development of safe, effective and patient centered health policies. The theoretical concepts of HTA demonstrate a strong connection between HTA and healthcare quality improvement. By way of illustration an example of successful experiences will be given.

Results. The presentation items are: - The definition of health technology - Introduction to health technology assessment as a multidisciplinary process that summarizes information about the medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology. - Why is health technology assessment used, the identification of the HTA report domains including Safety, Clinical Effectiveness, Ethical analysis, Social aspects, Legal aspects and the importance of patient experience in HTA. - The identification of the six dimensions of healthcare quality and the determination of the connection between HTA and healthcare quality improvement. - A presentation of the international Decision Support Initiative (iDSI) experience in some LMIC.

Conclusions. HTA has many meeting points with healthcare quality dimensions. HTA is likely to become an increasingly important influence in health decisions.

Poster Presentations

PP02 Using Real World Data To Identify The Market For A New Technology

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Introduction. King's Technology Evaluation Centre (KiTEC), a United Kingdom- based health technology assessment consultancy, was tasked with identifying a specific group of heart failure patients who had repeat readmissions in order to accurately identify the potential market for an innovative device designed to diagnose heart failure as a way to avoid costly and avoidable hospital readmissions. The device enables clinicians to remotely diagnose heart failure and appropriate medication can be administered instead of a hospital visit. Our methodology describes an accurate way to quantify the at risk population without the need for a costly trial.

Methods. Using big data from national registries – the heart failure specific National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) database and the national Hospital Episodes Statistics for the National Health Service (HES) – KiTEC has devised a methodology of linking the two datasets in order to (i) accurately identify patients with repeat readmissions over a 5-year period and (ii) calculate the risk factors for readmissions. Data is linked using a common field, meaning information from both databases can be analyzed at patient level (it is pseudo-anonymized before KiTEC receives it). This allows for unprecedented granularity, as we are able to exploit the heart failure specific detail of NICOR alongside the wealth of admissions data available in HES.

Results. There are significant challenges surrounding the use of registry data, especially in the enormous size of the datasets and in privacy legislation aimed at protecting personally identifying data. The usual regulatory approvals for health research are also more complex when linked datasets are proposed. These are important considerations, especially when linking two complementary databases.

Conclusions. The use of real world data has the potential to paint a true and accurate picture of a patient population, while avoiding many of the biases inherent in typically research studies. However, there are other important challenges to overcome, namely difficulties analyzing huge datasets and navigating complex legislation to access patient data.

PP03 Development Of A Medical Device Maintenance Management System

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Introduction. Health technologies are fundamental in an operational health system. Medical devices, in particular, are crucial for disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Recognizing this important role of health technologies, the World Health Assembly adopted, in May 2007, resolution WHA60.29, which addresses issues arising from inadequate installation and use of health technologies, as well as the need to formulate national strategies for the implementation of evaluation, planning, procurement and management systems for health technologies, in collaboration with personnel dedicated to the evaluation of health technologies and biomedical engineering. Maintenance management computer systems and software have evolved to help maintain medical equipment and control associated costs. A Computerized Maintenance Management