

Critical incorporation of health technologies in public hospitals and health centres: the experience of adapting processes and tools in the province of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

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GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT



BACKGROUND

**National
University
of Lanus**

Research domain



HTA: bridging the gap

**Ministry of Health
of the Province of
Tierra del Fuego**

Policy & decision
making domain

Cooperation agreement

Purpose: Use HTA based methodology, processes and tools to improve health technology management for health system strengthening

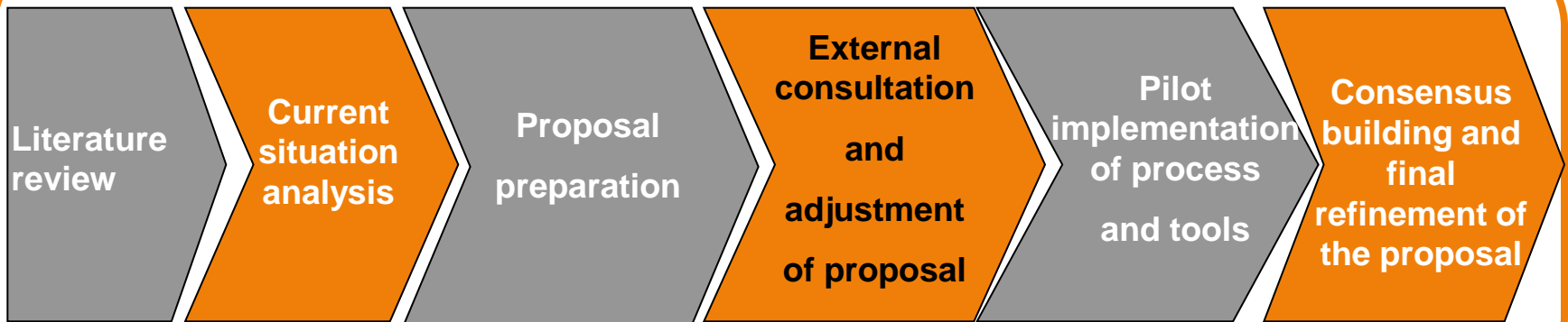
Time frame: 2007-2010

SIX STEPS ADAPTATION METHODOLOGY

Core group



Core group & main stakeholders



Iterative refinement of the proposal and consultative process

STEP 1

Literature
review

Provided

- Critical incorporation of health technology state of the art
- Identification of facilitators and obstacles
- Description of formal and structured processes
- Identification of explicit criteria/considerations for incorporation approval or rejection
- Identification of core domains, topics and issues
- Questionnaires, application or request forms, check lists, guides, instructions

STEP 2



Current
situation
analysis

Provided

- Regulatory framework
- Complete description of current process and tools
- Opinion of main stakeholders
- Facilitators and obstacles for proposal implantation, implementation and development

STEP 3



Proposal
preparation

- ❑ Questionnaires, forms, check lists, guides selection, comparison, identification of common and uncommon elements
- ❑ Review of instructions
- ❑ Comparative analysis of processes implemented
- ❑ Proposal elaboration (including process design and essential and support tools).

STEP 4

**External
consultation
and
adjustment
of proposal**

Experts request of advise and comments about:

- Process
- Essential tools (application form, conflict of interest declaration, initial assessment and structured final evaluation report).

STEP 5



Pilot
implementation
of process
and tools

Application of process and tools to health technologies and centers determined by the Health Authority as follows:

- two health technologies
- a request initiated in a health center
- a request initiated in a Hospital Service

STEP 6

Consensus
building and
final
refinement of
the proposal

Workshops with:

- Health authorities at different levels in the MOH
- Professionals in the two provincial Hospitals

PROCESS

Phases

Filling out the abbreviated request form

Review of request eligibility by the HTA unit

Filling out the application form

Elaboration of the assessment report

Evaluation of the application form and previous reports by a Committee

Advice to the Minister

Decision making and communication of results

Resolution of appeals

Dissemination of reports

Implementation and monitoring of introduction

PRODUCTS

ESSENTIALS TOOLS

- Abbreviated request form
- Application form
- Initial assessment report
- Structured final evaluation report
- Conflict of interest declaration
- Glossary of HTA basic terms



SUPPORT TOOLS

- Directory of Internet resources
- Evaluators Code of Ethics
- Functions and basic structure of the Health Technology Unit

MAIN FINDINGS

- ❑ Recognition of many situations of uncritical incorporation.
- ❑ Generalized acceptance of:
 - a) process because it contributes to make explicit and transparent decisions based on arguments not only based on administrative requisites and cost of acquisition and facilitates the combination of evidence, strategic vision of health services, organizational issues and value judgements in a specific context
 - b) tools because they are intelligible, easy to complete, facilitate information organization, analysis, value judgement formulation and harmonization of recommendations.

MAIN FINDINGS

- ❑ Consideration that process and instruments allowed to reduce the asymmetries between services applying to all applicants the same “rules of game”.
- ❑ Identification of the proposal potential to break the "silos culture" and to promote dialogue among multiple stakeholders.
- ❑ Appreciation of the information provided in the application form provide sufficient arguments to analyze and make recommendations.
- ❑ Recognition of the usefulness of different assessment and structured evaluation reports to understand recommendations.
- ❑ Recognition of the value of monitoring health technology introduction.

KEY POINTS OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Political support needed to increase rationality in health technologies incorporation in alignment with MOH vision and health plan.
- ❑ Recognized need to adapt processes and tools to local settings and context.
- ❑ Iterative, consultative process and pilot experience for proposal elaboration, adjustment and to create intervention viability.
- ❑ Close interaction with key direct stakeholders to assure that the proposal will be owned and endorsed by main officers and groups.

KEY POINTS OF THE STUDY

- ❑ Different strategies implementation to reduce “barriers” that the process may create.
- ❑ Stakeholders involvement engaging them as contributors, influencers and beneficiaries.
- ❑ Harmonization of administrative procedures.
- ❑ Development of a HTA support unit provided with required human, financial, information technologies, etc. resources.
- ❑ The new process of critical health technology incorporation will have to develop gradually allowing organizational learning, work changes and key HTA expertise acquisition.

HTA IMPLICATIONS

- ❑ Improve co-operation and developments to support evaluation capacity building.
- ❑ Dissemination of HTA concepts, methodologies, tools, findings and issues.
- ❑ Face the challenge to include patients opinions, perspectives, beliefs and patients involvement.
- ❑ Strengthening of Health Information Systems as a pre-requisite to support critical health technology incorporation.
- ❑ Improve data demand and information use at different levels.
- ❑ External evaluation of the quality of reports.
- ❑ Utilization of HTA findings for Health System Strengthening.

THANK YOU

VIII HTAi Annual Meeting

HTAi 2011

HTA for Health Systems Sustainability

Río de Janeiro

27th to 29th of June