

HTA Implementation in Tunisia: First Steps

Introduction: The National Instance for Accreditation in Healthcare (INASanté) was created by decree in 2012, as one of the main steps of the Tunisian health system's reform. INASanté is a public, non-for profit, scientific authority that has two principal missions: Health technology assessment (HTA) and accreditation. The first step of implementation of HTA has consisted in a stakeholder analysis with the support of WHO in order to develop HTA contextualized strategy in Tunisia.

Methods: A stakeholder analysis has been conducted with the support of WHO HTA expert in two steps. During the first step, INASanté team has identified 36 stakeholders in 9 different fields according to INAHTA classification for stakeholders, 23 meetings were organized in April 2015 to introduce INASanté and its HTA mission. Each party expressed his point of view concerning HTA implementation in Tunisia. The second step, in May 2015, consisted in a consensus meeting involving all stakeholders including policy makers. Five workshops were conducted: 1-HTA and universal health coverage, 2-HTA processes and stakeholders' collaboration modalities, 3- Problems and solutions in implementing HTA in Tunisia, 4-INASanté organization, 5-HTA and drugs. Each workshop group was based on some questions related to each topic.

Results: Different Stakeholders have expressed their commitment to the HTA implementation and have highlighted the importance of scientific and financial independence of INASanté. HTA will be part of the Tunisian healthcare reform and will concern drugs, medical devices, equipment, medical and surgical procedures and healthcare programs. INASanté HTA reviews will be public. Moreover, HTA will have an essential role in the reimbursement process in Tunisia. Drugs pricing may also be based on HTA reports. Currently many issues should be discussed such as drugs classification and health products reimbursement rates.

Conclusion: HTA has key implications for universal health coverage in Tunisia. It offers views on the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the use of health technologies. INASanté reviews should guide policy makers. Furthermore, international collaboration is required to be in accordance with international standards.