**Select the theme that your submission is most relevant to:**

**Theme 4:** Priority setting and economic evaluation

**Title**

Institutional arrangements for priority-setting: what are the key factors countries must consider when institutionalising HTA?

**Abstract (Presentation 2)**

*Mr. Thomas Wilkinson; PRICELESS-SA (Wits School of Public Health), University of the Witwatersrand*

Title: Developments in institutionalising priority-setting in South Africa

In December 2015 the National Department of Health (NDoH) released a White Paper on proposals for implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI) that would move towards universal, high-quality, and equitable health coverage for all South Africans. The government intends to reach a single National Health Insurance scheme by 2025 with the goal of UHC. A key component of the plans for NHI will be the implementation of HTA methods and processes within the South African system, particularly for health benefit package design and determining eligibility to particular technologies. However, the specific nature and functionality of HTA institutionalisation in SA is still being developed.

There is thus both tremendous need for and potential impact from more explicit, comprehensive priority-setting mechanisms, with equity and sustainability as core objectives, in ensuring healthcare resources are targeted at the most deprived population groups. South Africa has access to more resources than many countries in SSA in terms of capacity for priority-setting, including well-regarded academic centres. However, formal consideration of HTA and other analytic evidence plays a limited role at the NHI level. Priority-setting is mostly indirect and decentralised among various agencies and organisations with remits around essential medicines, pricing, and essential equipment. There is also considerable priority-setting activity among other agencies in the public, private, academic and NGO sectors, with some initiatives such as PRICELESS SA having the support of the NDoH.

There is substantial scope and demand for a comprehensive approach that is tailored to the needs of the South African health system. PRICELESS SA, based at the School of Public Health at the University of Witwatersrand in collaboration with local partners and the iDSI network is actively involved in initiatives to support NHI implementation and HTA institutionalisation.