

Lessons learnt from using critical appraisal to inform emerging health technology funding decisions at the Accident Compensation Corporation

M.D Barry, M. Stephenson and A. Bowens

The exponential technological development of devices and treatments in healthcare has led to increased expectations from customers and providers for these to be funded by public sector organisations like the Accident Compensation Corporation¹ (ACC) in New Zealand (NZ). At ACC we find that creating an organisational position on these items can be difficult using the evidence-based medicine (EBM) methodologies that traditionally underlie clinical guideline development.

At ACC we have become more agile with how we use EBM frameworks to guide the funding position on emerging technologies where there is little high quality evidence. One method is small targeted critical appraisals in a staged process with an expert working group that pragmatically uses clinical expertise to guide decisions when evidence is inconclusive. For leading edge technology we find horizon scanning programmes are resource intense, where benefits rarely outweigh the costs and reports are not produced fast enough for the decision maker. With the volume of new devices and treatments available and marketed directly to consumers, we are revising how to produce consistent guidance around funding of emerging technology.

In this presentation, we will discuss our experience using EBM frameworks for emerging technology, using specific examples. Then discuss the underlying drivers and influencers driving provider and client's expectations for funding newly developed technology in lieu of already funded, tried and tested conventional interventions.

¹ ACC provides comprehensive, no-fault personal injury cover for all NZ residents and visitors to NZ which includes cover for some injuries caused by medical treatment