



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
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HCA DIRECTOR SELECTS HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

The HCA Director, in consultation with participating state agencies, has selected a group of health technologies that will undergo review and then be presented to the Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) for coverage decisions. After reviewing the previously posted recommended technologies, agency input, committee input and public comments, seven health technologies are selected for evidence based review beginning in 2013. Two health technologies are selected for re-review.

Selected technologies for review

1. Proton Beam Therapy
2. Facet Neurotomy for Cervical and Lumbar Pain
3. Non-pharmacologic Treatments for Treatment Resistant Depression
4. Non-invasive Diagnosis/ Screening for Colon Cancer
5. Neuroimaging for Primary Degenerative Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment
6. Screening Tests for Osteoporosis
7. Thyroid Ultrasound for Screening or Assessment of Goiter

Selected technologies for re-review

1. Hip Resurfacing
2. Hyaluronic Acid/Viscosupplementation

Public comment

A 30-day period to gather public comment on selected topics is the next step in the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process. Please see 'Next Step' at the bottom of this document for more information including how to submit comments to the program.

Technologies eligible for re-review but not selected

Technologies with final coverage decisions are considered for re-review at least once every 18 months. By law, technologies are selected for re-review only to assess new evidence that could change a previous determination. For the current period, the program has not received any requests for re-review or submissions of new evidence supporting a request for re-review.

How technologies are selected for review

The medical devices, procedures, and diagnostic tests are selected based on concerns about whether the technology is safe, whether it works as intended, and whether it is cost-effective, especially when compared to alternatives or where there is a variation in how it is used. State agencies and any interested parties identify potential health technologies of concern. These topics are prioritized based on legislative requirements and criteria widely used in technology assessment priority settings.

Next step: Public comment

A 30-day period to gather public comment on selected topics is next. This public comment period is used primarily to gather information and evidence from any interested parties for consideration in the review process.

Consumers, organizations, researchers, physicians, product manufacturers, professional societies and other members of the health care community have important insights that can assist us. The health care community may have evidence relating to actual practice that is informative. Public comments that provide information, preferably published clinical evidence, relating to a health technology's safety, efficacy, effectiveness, or cost-effectiveness are most helpful. Public comments that give information on unpublished evidence such as the results of individual practitioners or patients are less rigorous and therefore less useful in the evidence based analysis.

Comments may be submitted by email to: shtap@hca.wa.gov

More information about the HTA Program is available on-line: <http://www.hta.hca.wa.gov/>