

Prioritization Criteria

HTA and the AMDG workgroup created a process and tools based on the legislative requirements and criteria that are widely used in technology assessment priority setting. Identification of criteria and use of priority tools makes the process explicit and increases transparency and consistency across decision-makers. The tools are intended to be used by the AMDG workgroup when making recommendations and by the clinical committee when making comments or selections of technologies.

A technology briefing document, a technology scoring tool, and an accompanying scoring guideline were created. The purpose of these documents is to provide the decision maker with information required to understand and complete the prioritization of the technologies. The briefing document provides basic information about the technology. The technology scoring tool has a set of Primary criteria and a set of Secondary criteria. The primary criteria are directly linked to the legislative mandates for the program which focus on technology reviews where there are concerns about safety, efficacy, or cost effectiveness, especially relative to existing alternatives. See RCW 70.14.100. These criteria are also common to other technology assessment programs.

Primary Criteria Include:

1. *Potential patient harm/safety concerns*
 - The safety criterion is directed at identifying the potential degree of harm than an individual may experience if the technology is used.
2. *Concerns about therapeutic efficacy or diagnostic accuracy and appropriateness of outcomes for patients*
 - The efficacy criterion is directed at identifying whether there are issues related to the potential clinical impact that the technology, if used, can have for the individual with the condition indicated. Efficacy concerns cover several categories: the range of potential benefit that could be realized; whether alternatives exist; and the extent of questions related to whether the potential benefit is shown in actual results.
3. *Estimated total direct cost per year (estimated increase/decrease)*
 - The cost criterion is directed at identifying the potential budget impact (degree of change) that the technology coverage or non-coverage would have for the participating agencies.

In addition to the primary criteria, there are other factors important to consider when deciding which technology should go through this extensive review process. These factors are related to the primary criteria, and provide additional considerations. They were formulated by researching other entities that must prioritize technology assessments and reviewing HTA program goals and mandates.

Secondary Criteria Include:

4. *Number of persons affected per year*
 - The number of patient's criterion is directed at identifying the potential number of individuals that may use the technology.
5. *Severity of condition treated by technology*
 - The severity of condition criterion is directed at identifying the significance of the individual burden of morbidity, mortality, or disability that the condition creates. This is a judgment based on experience and clinical expertise.
6. *Policy related urgency/diffusion concern*
 - The urgency criterion is directed at identifying policy relevant factors that impact the timing of the technology review.
7. *Potential or observed variation*
 - The variation criterion is directed at identifying variation in the access, payment, provision, or use of a health technology. There are a number of aspects of health care utilization that may be variable and indicate the potential for improved quality through research and policy applications.
8. *Special populations/ethical concerns*
 - The special populations or ethical concerns criterion is directed at identifying any significant issue that the technology may impact with respect to ethical, legal, or social implications or a specific impact to a special population such as women, children, elderly, or a specific race or ethnicity.