

HOW COULD EXPERT IMMUNIZATION COMMITTEES BE MORE USEFUL ?

The Provincial / Territorial Perspective

or

“The Sausage in the Sandwich”

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P/T Public Health Perspective

To be useful, information on immunization programs that is analyzed and synthesized by Immunization Committees and the recommendations they develop:

- should be linked to decision-making (efficiently)
- should also influence decision-making (effectively)
- should be more closely linked to immunization program funding and resources (successfully)

**Premise - In A Public-Funded Program,
Decision-Making Occurs
At Multiple Points**

**1. P/T GOVERNMENT – POINT OF OVERALL
ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Legal authority for health care
- Province / Territory-wide program responsibility
- Funding responsibility (except NIS)
- Formal business review -Treasury Board
- Co-ordinates Public + HCW communications
- Program aligns with politics / politicians

**Premise - In A Public-Funded Program,
Decision-Making Occurs
At Multiple Points**

2. DELEGATED AUTHORITIES AND FUNDED PARTNERS

- Regional Health Authorities, health professionals
- Have implementation authority and accountability, through legislation

3. CLIENTS / CONSUMERS – Target of vaccine program
– Voluntary decision to participate

NOTE: Stakeholders have interest and role, but are usually not accountable for programs.

- Media
- NGOs
- Universities

Premise – If There Are Multiple Levels and Points of Decision-Making, and If We Wish To Guide and / or Inform Decision-Making with Evidence, We Will Need:

- Multiple areas of research and information development
- Efficient and effective processes of linkage of information and recommendations - to the multiple points of decision-making

But, Some Decision-Making May Not Be Easily Studied or Understood

Examples: Government / Executive / Personal

- Confidential situations
- Non-compliance
- Competing priorities

Thus, for answers to many questions on decision-making, we may need to rely on observational and / or personal experiences and lessons learned from past history or innovative research methods

Opportunities for Improvement for Vaccine Program Review

- **INCREASED EFFICIENCY BY WORKING TOGETHER**
 - Avoid duplication-literature reviews done once
 - Streamline the processes – define best practices
 - New F/P/T vaccine program planning process
- **EARLIER ANTICIPATION OF VACCINE APPROVAL**
 - Define research questions on key unknowns
 - Earlier reviews and program planning
 - Assure answers for decision makers
 - For the F/P/T Network, link reviews + decisions

Opportunities for Improvement for Vaccine Program Review

- **LEVERAGE RESOURCES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**
 - Canadian Collaborative Centre for Infectious Diseases
 - Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)/ Agence d'Evaluation des Technologies et des Modes d'Intervention en Sante (AETMIS)
 - Canadian Association of Immunization Research and Evaluation (CAIRE)

Opportunities for Improvement for Vaccine Program Review

- **SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF COLLABORATION AND NETWORKS**
 - IRID role is key in NACI and the CIC
 - Professional Societies and Non-Government Organizations role in education + communication
 - Frame immunization program review as a knowledge translation (KT) exercise (CIHR / IRSC) for research into decision making and KT

Knowledge Translation (CIHR / IRSC)

- Is the exchange, synthesis and ethically-sound application of knowledge – within a complex system of interactions among researchers and users.
- To accelerate the capture of the benefits of research for Canadians through more improved health, **more effective services and products**, and a strengthened health care system.

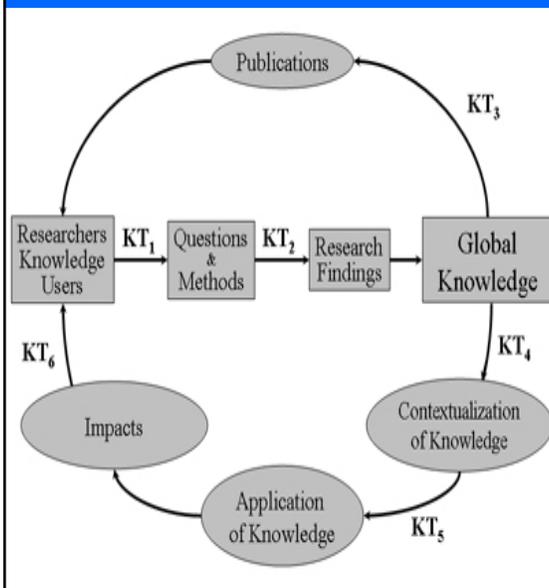
Knowledge Translation (CIHR / IRSC)

- Involves active exchange of information between the researcher and those who use it.
- Different than unidirectional flow of knowledge from researchers to users.
- Dialogic and interactive process.
- Vision (CIHR / IRSC) is to develop a systematic, integrated approach to accelerate optimal use of the best available research evidence in the interest of the health of Canadians.

Knowledge Translation and Partners

- Meaningful exchanges
- Relationships for CIHR / IRSC
 - Researchers
 - Policy-makers, planners, managers
 - Health care providers
 - General public (media, non-governmental organizations, educators)
 - Private sector

Knowledge Translation (KT) within the Research Cycle



- KT1: Defining research questions and methodologies
- KT2: Conducting research (as in the case of participatory research)
- KT3: Publishing research findings in plain language and accessible formats
- KT4: Placing researching findings into the context of other knowledge and socio-cultural norms;
- KT5: Making decisions and taking actions informed by research findings; and
- KT6: Influencing subsequent rounds of research based on the impacts of knowledge use

CIHR / IRSC

CADTH – An independent, Not-for-profit organization

- Established in 1989.
- Vision: to facilitate the appropriate and effective utilization of health technologies within the health care system across Canada.
- Mission: to provide timely, relevant and rigorously derived evidence-based information to decision makers and to support the decision-making process.

Canadian Agency for
Drugs and Technologies
in Health

Agence canadienne
des médicaments et des
technologies de la santé

What is Health Technology?

- A Health Technology is Designed to:
 - Improve health
 - Prevent, diagnose or treat disease
 - Aid in rehabilitation or long-term care
- A Health Technology Includes:
 - Drugs, **vaccines**, and blood products
 - Devices and equipment
 - Materials, medical and surgical procedures

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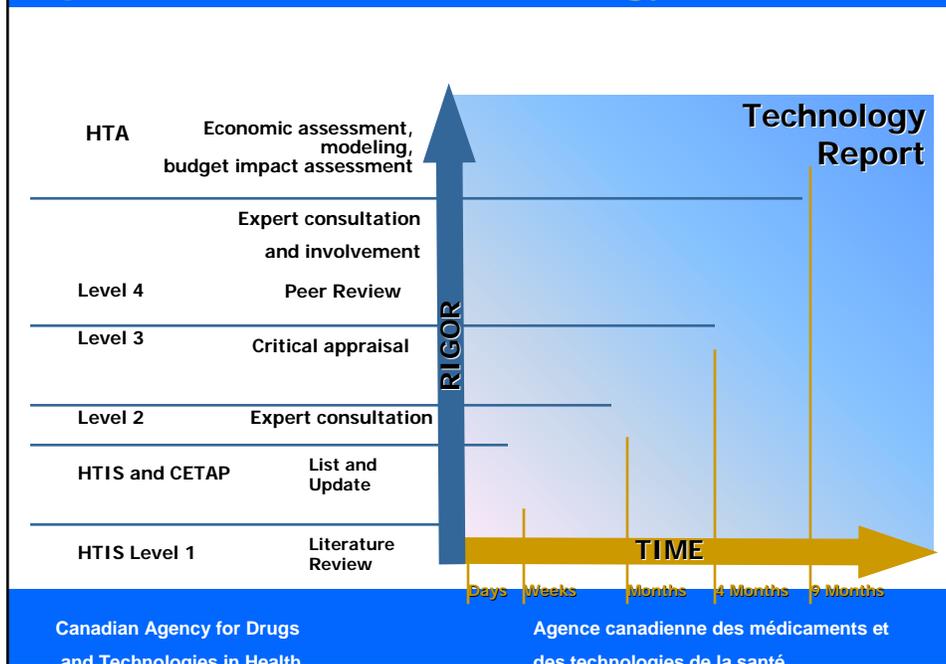
Benefits of HTA

- Systematic review of all available evidence on a topic
- Transparent appraisal of the evidence
- Formulation of conclusions
 - ***Comprehensive summary of the available evidence***
- External review by at least two experts in the subject field to assure quality, accuracy and validity of the HTA report

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Spectrum of Health Technology Assessment



Summary

- Multiple areas for improvement exist to make immunization committees more useful.
- Need to optimize the F/P/T PH Network process.
- Need to optimize linkage to resource-rich external organizations to assist in process and content of information for knowledge translation that will benefit immunization programs.
- Ideally, decision-making should be based on evidence and be directly linked to immunization program funding to simplify the process.