Setting Priorities and Encouraging Transparency in Healthcare

MCDA is a deliberative process used to aid decision making in healthcare, in which decisions take into account multiple considerations and perspectives of different stakeholders. Identifying, prioritizing, and addressing healthcare objectives systematically helps ensure that the needs of all interested parties are considered in healthcare decisions—with increased participation and greater transparency.1-3

MCDA CAN BE PERFORMED USING BASIC STEPS*

DEFINE THE PROBLEM4
What decision is being made?
What are the alternative actions under consideration?
Who are the stakeholders?

SELECT & STRUCTURE CRITERIA4,8
Identify the objectives (criteria for success) of all interested parties

MEASURE PERFORMANCE4,6,7
Determine how to measure the performance of each alternative action on each criteria

MCDA EXAMPLE10

Decision: Should a novel monoclonal antibody (obinutuzumab) for the treatment of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma be reimbursed?

Alternatives: ✓ Reimburse ✓ Do not reimburse

Stakeholders: Patients, clinicians, payers

Potential criteria:

Performance parameters:

Need:
- disease severity
- unmet need (innovation)
- size of patient population

Outcomes:
- effectiveness (eg, progression-free survival) /safety
- patient-perceived benefit

Type of benefit:
- preventive versus therapeutic

Economic:
- intervention cost
- other medical costs
- non-medical costs

Knowledge:
- quality of evidence
- expert consensus
- guideline support

Additional MCDA steps will vary across health systems, but may include methods for weighting (prioritizing) criteria, selecting scoring methods, calculating an aggregate score that captures an intervention's total value, accounting for uncertainty, and analyzing and reporting results in a useful format.

DID YOU KNOW?

Using MCDA, alternative actions can be ranked based on their overall performance.5

MCDA can:

- Improve decision-making in healthcare2
- Guide regulatory and public policy decisions4
- Promote participation and transparency in the health sector1,4,8

WHO=World Health Organization. | We thank Martina Garau, Principal Economist at the Office of Health Economics, for her review of this material.

References: