Real world testing and evaluation of the Comprehensive Assessment of Technologies for Child Health (CATCH) Framework

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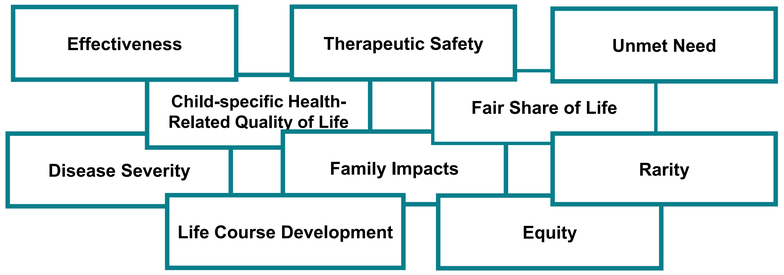
BACKGROUND

THE PROBLEM: Conventional health technology assessment (HTA) methods for assessing the value of pediatric health technologies fail to account for the specific circumstances of children, resulting in limited access to drugs through public funding.

OUR RESPONSE: We developed a deliberation-driven, multi-criteria decision analysis-based tool to augment HTA processes: the *Comprehensive Assessment of Technologies for Child Health (CATCH) Framework.*[1] CATCH Framework criteria reflect attributes of value when evaluating pediatric drugs for public funding and reimbursement.

CATCH CRITERIA: Child-tailored evaluation values for HTA processes



GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

We aimed to test and evaluate the use of CATCH in decision-making by the Formulary Management Expert Committee (FMEC) within Canada's Drug Agency (CDA).

- ***Objective 1:*** **Trial and assess the usefulness of CATCH in developing FMEC recommendations**
- ***Objective 2*****: Understand potential barriers and facilitators of implementing CATCH within FMEC's organizational structure and processes**

METHODS

Mixed methods, Utilization-Focused Evaluation, an approach emphasizing collaboration and direct involvement of the intended users of innovations.

- **Participation in pediatric drugs decision-making processes (evaluation development, FMEC deliberations)**
- **Key informant interviews and focus groups with FMEC committee members**
- **Thematic analysis guided by selected domains of the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research**

1. Gauvreau CL, Schreyer L, Gibson PJ, Koo A, Ungar WJ, Regier D, et al. Development of a Value Assessment Framework for Pediatric Health Technologies Using Multicriteria Decision Analysis: Expanding the Value Lens for Funding Decision Making. Value in Health. 2024;27(7):879-88.

RESULTS/IMPACTS TO DATE

Objective 1 activities completed: **Engagement with CDA and FMEC senior management and staff in 2025 to trial CATCH**

Senior management engagement

- **Met with the CDA's Chief Scientist and VP of Evidence and Executive VP, Evidence, Products and Services**
- **Scoped out project and identified FMEC as appropriate unit for trialing CATCH**

FMEC leadership engagement

Met 4 times with leaders responsible for developing innovative framework for reviewing non-sponsored reviews (i.e., not submitted by pharmaceuticals, but requested by other bodies)

Participation in FMEC deliberations

- **Invited to see CATCH "in action" in deliberation of 2 pediatric drugs**
- **Chair of deliberative committee and FMEC leaders affirmed the utility of CATCH in evaluation**

KEY IMPACTS

1. **Partnership formed with CDA/FMEC**
2. **CATCH elements integrated into the FMEC deliberation process, confirming its utility and relevance for evaluating pediatric drugs**

NEXT STEPS;

Objective 2 activities to understand barriers and facilitators in integrating CATCH in HTA processes in FMEC

- **Key informant interviews (CDA management, FMEC leaders and committee members**
- **Focus group with People With Lived Experience**

TIMELINES:

Start: March 2025

End: December 2026