**Supplemental Material 2**

**Barriers and facilitators to improving the link between HTA and decisions**

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| **Barriers** |
| * Lack of an adequate legal framework for the institutionalization of HTA * HTA agencies and units with insufficient resources * Shortage of technically trained human resources * Lack of “assessment culture” and training of stakeholders to participate adequately (patients, scientific societies, industry, payers, others) * Lack of adequate governance * Insufficient monitoring of decisions * Judicialization * Lack of continuity in policies (e.g., before changes in government) * Poor communication and knowledge on the part of the general public and various stakeholders about the HTA process and the principles of resource prioritization * Shortage of basic local data such as epidemiological data on incidence or prevalence of health conditions, data on costs or on the real-world performance of technologies * Lack of sufficient time for the assessment process and the urgency of decision making * Limited transparency in the processes related to the production of HTA * Heterogeneous regions with distinct realities and difficulty in defining certain decisions * “Politization” of health (party politics versus long-term policies) |
| **Facilitators** |
| * Right political moment – a window of opportunity as many actors in society consider this a priority * A wide-range of international experiences to learn form. No need to reinvent the wheel. * Well-established mechanisms of regional cooperation that could facilitate the development of common solutions. * Better understanding by all stakeholders that HTA goes beyond the simple technical assessments of health technologies. * Important advances in the region to include stakeholders (however there is much still to do) * Pressure from various stakeholders and the public for a clearer, more transparent and inclusive HTA process. * HTA processes that are scientifically and intellectually independent * Countries that have made progress in defining health system priorities that can be aligned with the HTA process. |