**Supplemental Material 3**

**Characteristics, attributes, elements and processes of highest priority for implementation in the health systems in Latin America so as to improve the link between HTA and decision making**

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| Priority Attributes |
| Phase: Identification and prioritization of technologies for assessment |
| A transparent process with clear criteria for the identification and prioritization of technologies to be assessed   * Other important attributes: * To be able to anticipate new and disruptive technologies through horizon scanning and early dialogue with technology producers (horizon scanning) * Include all interested stakeholders in the identification and prioritization process * Have criteria based in local needs, i.e., disease burden, severity of illness as well as other social values for the prioritization of technologies for assessment |
| Phase: Assessment\* |
| Adequate involvement of stakeholders (decision makers, patients, clinicians, industry).  Quality in the assessment process with methodological rigor and adapted to the local context).   * Other important attributes: * Technology performance is measured for each of the dimensions in a clear and explicit way. * Transparency of the process. * Financially sustainable. * Include dimensions of value important to society * Mechanisms for rapid assessment of emerging health priorities * Sufficient and defined timelines * Public consultation * Effective communication to stakeholders |
| Phase: Recommendation/Appraisal |
| The criteria and dimensions upon which the recommendations are based are clear and explicit (value framework)  The basis of the recommendations is appropriately justified  Clear and explicit rules on how the recommendation process is carried out, and who can participate and how (transparency)   * Other important attributes: * Rules on how to account for conflict of interest that allows for transparent participation * Inclusion of experts in the topic of the assessment. * Recommendations are precise, conclusive, and provide clear guidance on the actions to be followed. * Confidence exists in the technical capacity of the HTA organization and in the legitimacy of the assessment process. * A fair balance exists across the interests of the various stakeholder who participate in the recommendation process. * Clear and pre-defined timelines * Application of pre-established mechanisms to update and review recommendations |
| Phase: Decision Making and Appeal |
| Existence of a legal framework that legitimizes decisions  Explicit process to link the decision with the recommendation and corresponding rationale.  Timeline between the recommendation and decision making are appropriate and predictable.  Decisions are publicly available  Broad communication of the decision through adequate and clear channels that reach all stakeholders/users of the system.  Mechanisms exist for appeal and review of decisions  All stakeholders contribute to the legitimacy of decisions by respecting and supporting them, or, in case of discrepancies, established mechanisms of appeal are used (not judicialization, for example)  A process/mechanism of support accompanies the decision (“after-sales service”) to help those who have to execute both positive and negative decisions.  The conditions to legitimize decisions are present (related to the Accountability for Reasonableness – A4R)18   * Other important attributes: * The implementation of decisions is accompanied by a sufficient plan (e.g., plan to pay for recommended technologies) * Consideration of mechanisms of shared risk and other arrangements that facilitate the implementation of decisions * Decision making mechanisms can be adapted to the time required in each case (e.g., decision making can be conducted urgently when required) * The basis of the decision is sufficiently justified * Clear and explicit rules on how the decision-making process is to be carried out * Decisions are endorsed by the highest health authority * Decisions are precise, conclusive, and provide clear guidance on the actions to be followed * A mechanism exists to monitor decisions in the long term |

***\* Interesting point of debate:*** The inclusion of confidential information in the HTA process (unpublished data, databases/registries, etc.). *In favor*: this information is included by many HTA agencies (i.e., NICE, CADTH) in the assessment as the use of all the existing evidence can improve the decision even if not everything is published. *Against*: it reduces transparency and weakens the entire process.