

# Decision-Making on New Non-Drug Health Technologies by Hospitals and Health Authorities in Canada

Prise de décision par les hôpitaux et les autorités de la santé au sujet des nouvelles technologies non pharmacologiques au Canada

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## Appendix 1

*Self-administered survey (to follow)*

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Decision-Making on Whether or Not to Pay for New Non-Drug Health Technologies In Canadian Health  
Care Organizations Questionnaire  
(Regional Version)

Developed by the Health Technology & Policy Unit, School of Public Health, University of Alberta

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As described in the covering letter, we would be grateful if you provided your name and contact information so we can clarify information and responses as necessary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position in organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**The survey asks questions about how your organization decides whether or not to pay for non-drug health technologies (NDHTs) falling into one of the categories listed below. We understand that processes may vary depending on the type or category of NDHT and involve different committees.**

**1. For which NDHTs are you able to complete this survey? (check all that apply)**

- Diagnostics
- Surgical
- Low-cost high-volume with annual budget impact greater than \$1 million

**Demographic and Financial Information**

**2. Please check the appropriate characteristics describing your organization:**

- Regional/district health authority
- LIHN
- CSSS (Quebec)
- Provincial ministry/organization

**3. For regional health authorities, or similar organizations, how many acute care institutions does your region/organization operate?**

- Number of acute care institutions: \_\_\_\_\_
- Not applicable

**4. What is the overall annual operating budget for your organization?**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What are the funding sources used by your organization to acquire NDHTs? (check all that apply)**

- Global budget government funding
- Specific/targeted government grant
- Research funding
- Hospital foundations
- Manufacturers
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Does your organization employ alternative funding mechanisms for new NDHTs (e.g., cost sharing with manufacturers)? If yes, please briefly identify these alternative mechanisms.**

No

Yes. Please explain:

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**Structure of Decision-Making**

**7. Does the cost of NDHTs determine who makes recommendations/decisions for them? For example, if a technology costs more than a certain amount, decisions would be made by a central committee while lower cost technologies are decided on at the department or institutional level. If yes, what is the approximate cost threshold for centralized decision making?**

No

Yes. If so, what is the cost threshold? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**8. In you organization, who makes recommendations on whether or not to pay for new NDHTs?**

An individual (If yes, skip questions 10-12 and complete question 9)

A committee (If yes, skip questions 9 and 12 and complete questions 10-11)

Both (If yes, skip questions 9-11 and complete question 12)

**9. If recommendations are made by an individual, what position does this individual fill?**

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**10. If recommendations are made by a committee, please provide the name of the committee:**

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**11. If recommendations are made by a committee, what is the committee membership?**

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**12. If recommendations are made by both, when are they made by an individual and when are they made by a committee? Please also provide the position of the individual involved, name of the committee and committee membership:**

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**13. In your organization, who makes final decisions on whether or not to pay for new NDHTs?**

- Same as recommendation body (If yes, skip questions 14-17)
- An individual (If yes, complete question 14 and skip questions 15-17)
- A committee (If yes, skip question 14 and 17 and complete question 15-16)
- Both (If yes, skip questions 14-16 and complete question 17)

**14. If decisions are made by an individual, what position does this individual fill? \_\_\_\_\_**

**15. If decisions are made by a committee, please provide the name of the committee:**

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**16. If decisions are made by a committee, what is the committee membership?**

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**17. If decisions are made by both, when are they made by an individual and when are they made by a committee? Please also provide the position of the individual involved, name of the committee and committee membership:**

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**18. Are patients and public groups involved in the determining whether or not to pay for new NDHTs? If yes, please describe when and in what capacity they are involved.**

No

Yes. Please explain:

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**Decision Process**

**19. Please list who makes new non-drug health technology requests in your organization (eg., physicians, executive team, patient groups, etc.):**

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**20. How are new NDHTs requested in your organization? Please describe the appropriate process.**

Formal request process. Please describe:

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Informal request process. Please describe:

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**21. If new NDHTs are formally requested, which medium is used to request the technologies?**

Online/electronic requests

Paper-based requests

Not applicable

**22. When are non-drug health technology decisions made?**

Regularly scheduled meetings

On an ad hoc basis when technologies are requested

### **Decision Factors, Criteria and Information**

**23. On a scale of 0 to 5, to what extent do decisions on whether or not to pay for NDHTs align with the organization's strategic plan? (0=not aligned; 5=fully aligned)**

- **Response:** \_\_\_\_\_

**24. Please indicate which types of information are considered when making a non-drug health technology decision (check all that apply):**

- Clinical effectiveness
- Patient safety
- Disease burden
- Cost effectiveness
- Budget impact assessment
- Ethical obligations
- Legal impact
- Patient preferences
- Availability of an alternative
- Other(s) (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**25. What are the information sources used in deciding whether or not to pay for new NDHTs? (check all that apply)**

- Health Canada regulatory documents
- Peer reviewed literature
- Formal HTA reports
- Unpublished information sources
- Promotional material from manufacturers
- Clinical expert opinion
- Patient or public input
- Other(s) (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**26. Is there a minimum level of evidence required in deciding whether or not to pay for NDHTs in your organization (eg., randomized controlled clinical trials, cohort studies, case studies, etc)?**

No

Yes

**27. If yes, does the minimum level of evidence depend on the technology type? If applicable, please elaborate on what evidence is required for the different technology types.**

No

Yes. If so, explain:

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**28. What factors does the organization consider when making a non-drug health technology recommendation and/or decision?**

● **Technology factors**

Revenue potential

Regulatory status

Clinical benefit (ie., quality of health care, annual budget impact, completeness of basket of services, need)

Speed of technology uptake

● **Organization factors**

Institutional liability

Alignment with priorities (institutional, regional or provincial)

Availability of similar services elsewhere in region

Sense of equity

Precedence

● **Political factors**

Desire to please stakeholder groups (eg., physicians)

Consumer demand



Prestige of requestor or technology

• **Other(s):**

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**29. Based on previous decisions on whether or not to pay for NDHTs, what are the three most important factors considered?**

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

**30. What are the three least important factors considered?**

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

**31. Does your organization pay for unapproved NDHTs made available through the special authorization program?**

- No
- Yes

**Implementation/Evaluation of Technology Acquisition Decision**

**32. What decision options are available NDHTs in your organization? (check all that apply)**

- Provide
- Provide with conditions
- Provide interim
- Do not provide

**33. Does your organization have any evaluation programs or structures in place to evaluate the implementation of new NDHTs? If so, can you describe these programs or structures?**

- No
- Yes. If so, explain:

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**34. Does your organization have an explicit process for examining existing technologies to redefine their appropriate use? If yes, please describe the process briefly.**

No

Yes. If so, explain:

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**35. On a scale from 0 to 5, what is the magnitude of the impact of off label use of NDHTs on your organization's budget? (0=no impact; 5=very significant impact)**

• **Response:** \_\_\_\_\_

**36. Does your organization have an explicit process to identify and address off label use of NDHTS? If yes, please describe this process.**

No

Yes. If so, explain:

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**37. If you have any other comments or information you think we would find useful on your process of deciding whether or not to pay for NDHTs please provide it in the following space:**

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