

## Tool 3 Example of scoping of an HB-HTA report (PICO, TICO questions)

### What is this tool for?

The scope of any health technology assessment should be clearly stated at the very beginning of the assessment process and arrived at in conjunction with end-users in clinical practice and hospital payers of the technology. Scoping the HB-HTA report refers to the process of defining the content of the report and formulating the key questions to be answered. Designated activity implies clearly defining the patients who will use the assessed intervention/technology, the comparator to be used and the outcomes to be assessed.

This tool provides an example of a PICO/TICO question to be used when defining the scope of HB-HTA report.

### Who is this tool for?

The tool was designed for use by HB-HTA units along with end-users in clinical practice involved and/or the economic manager when defining the scope of the assessment to be carried out.

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# A Toolkit for hospital-based Health Technology Assessment

HB-HTA Toolkit > DIMENSION 1: The assessment process  
> Guiding Principle 1: HB-HTA report: scope, hospital context and informational needs

## STEP 1

### Questions to be considered before the drafting of an HB-HTA report

- 1 Why are you planning to develop an HB-HTA report?  
What is the decision problem?**
  - Is the health technology under consideration new or has it already been tested/used in hospitals?
  - Is the technology raising clinical or budgetary concerns in neighbouring hospitals?
- 2 Who is your target audience?**
  - Is the hospital manager involved exclusively or in parallel with clinicians?
  - Is the HB-HTA report intended to be publicly communicated to external interested stakeholders?
- 3 When does the report need to be completed?**
  - Is the timeline defined? (please note that this affects, for example, the amount of effort devoted to literature search and/or the number of experts to be consulted during the assessment process).
- 4 Who are the key experts and relevant stakeholders to be consulted / involved during the assessment process?**
  - Are the preliminary potential stakeholders to be involved into the assessment process identified? (e.g. clinician asking for the assessment of health technology, nurses etc.).

### Example of the scope of an HB-HTA report and related questions concerning health technology and a decision problem

#### Scope of the HB-HTA report

Radioactive seed implants are a form of radiation therapy (called also brachytherapy) for prostate cancer. Seed implantation is suitable for patients with a localised tumour and good prognosis. A doctor implants radioactive (iodine-125 or palladium-103) seeds into the prostate gland using an ultrasound for guidance. The number of seeds and their location for implantation are determined by a computer-generated treatment plan tailored for each patient. Anywhere from 40 to 100 seeds are commonly implanted.

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## Questions associated with the considered health technology

- 1 What is the *health problem* associated with technology?
- 2 What is the current *standard treatment* of the health problem?
- 3 What are the *expected health benefits* arising from using the technology?
- 4 What are the *expected health risks* arising from the technology?
- 5 What are the *costs* related to treatment of this health problem?
- 6 What is the *budget impact* of implementing the technology?
- 7 What *organisational changes* are required to implement the technology?
- 8 What are the *strategic considerations* associated with an implementation of the technology (e.g. improvement of hospital overall image/prestige)?



## STEP 2

### Formulating the PICO/TICO question for the assessment process of health technology

**EXAMPLE OF PICO QUESTION** (for efficacy/budget impact/organisational change assessment)

<b>P</b> opulation (essential factors)	▶	<b>Men with prostate cancer</b>
<b>I</b> ntervention (specific intervention or class)	▶	<b>Brachytherapy</b>
<b>C</b> omparator (compared to "no" or "standard treatment")	▶	<b>Surgery</b>
<b>O</b> utcome (Patient-relevant outcomes) or (Hospital-relevant outcomes)	▶	<b>Survival improvement</b>
	▶	<b>Organisational changes and training required/total costs and revenues expected</b>

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## EXAMPLE OF TICO QUESTION

### TECHNOLOGY

**Technology:** What technology will be assessed?

*Please state the name of the technology and describe the type, classification, dosage, frequency, timing, duration and setting of the technology. If relevant, please specify whether the technology is compatible with the current IT-system of the hospital.*

### INDICATION

**Target disease:** What condition/disease is targeted?

*Please describe the disease or condition which is targeted.*

**Target population:** What population/group of patients does it concern? Who should receive the treatment/service?

*Please describe the target population in terms of e.g. age, gender, education, ethnicity, level of risk etc. Please specify the number of patients per year.*

**Intended use:** What is the purpose of use of the technology?

*Please describe whether the technology is used for prevention of or screening for the target condition; for diagnosing the target condition; for treatment of the target disease; for treatment selection, evaluating prognosis, monitoring, rehabilitation or for other purposes.*

### COMPARISON

**Alternative technologies/indications:** What are the alternatives to the technology/intervention? What is the technology/intervention compared to? e.g. usual practice at the hospital (available technology), conventional practice (gold standard), none/placebo, another population, dosage or mode of use?

*Please describe all possible alternative technologies and highlight which specific alternative the technology/intervention is compared to in this assessment. Please specify the name of the alternative technology or indication used as comparator.*

### OUTCOME

**Relevant measurable outcomes:** What relevant endpoints/outcome measures are used? e.g. change in mortality, morbidity, side effects, quality of life, cost-effectiveness, length of stay, number of (re)admissions, ICER, budget impact, costs per correct diagnoses etc.

*Please describe all relevant and important outcomes for this technology and indication and highlight which specific outcomes are included in this assessment.*