

Cost Effectiveness and Impact Assessment of Telemedicine - Proposal for an AQE Assessment methodology for Health Technology

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An extensive review of literature to date shows a lack of appropriate methodology for assessing Health Technology applications especially eHealth applications. As the pharmaceutical industry developed its own methodology of assessment of new drugs, the IT applications for health need a common methodology of evaluation. Very few common criteria of assessment are used today which leads to contradictory results. The need for acceptance for eHealth applications from all users, decision-makers, health professionals and more largely citizen, implies the need of a clear methodology of assessment of this type of applications. It seems that a model combining access quality of care and economic aspects (AQE) criteria could draw a clear picture of benefits brought by e-Health applications. This composite methodology based on quantitative and semi-quantitative criteria is proposed as a result of numerous project assessments in the frame of the R&D programs of the Information Society Directorate of the European Commission.

This multi-criteria methodology can provide the necessary arguments to the decision-makers, health professionals, industrial partners and citizen/patients in order to enhance the pace of adoption of eHealth applications. The AQE methodology is illustrated by different situations typical for the first steps in implementing and evaluating the overall improvements brought by Information and Computer Technology in health care.