

Health Technology Assessment – Paper 2

Media Briefing:

The Stockholm Network report; '**A Healthy Market? Health Technology Assessment in Context**', published today, reveals that European consumers are more restricted than those in the US in terms of the choice of drugs and life-extending medical technologies made available to them. The cross-national study of health technology assessment (HTA), which focuses on the way in which innovations in medical care are assessed in terms of their clinical performance and cost-effectiveness, highlights that healthcare decisions world-wide are made with cost-containment in mind.

As highlighted in the 'OECD Health Data 2007' report, which came out yesterday, health expenditure growth has consistently outpaced GDP growth by almost 50% over the last 15 years. This is a trend that looks likely to remain, with the result that governments' ability to provide patients with top-of-the-range treatments will inevitably decline. The number of life-and-death decisions taken by HTA regulatory bodies, especially the United Kingdom's National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) will become a critical factor in the standards of healthcare across Europe.

Conclusion:

The Stockholm Network report concludes that, unless Europe and Canada move towards a significantly better-funded and more sustainable model of healthcare financing, the rationing of essential treatments is here to stay.

These countries must face up to the necessity of moving away from healthcare models dominated by government funding in order to deliver to consumers the choice and standard of care they demand from their healthcare systems.

Please find attached the executive summary of the Stockholm Network report, and for the full article go to:

<http://www.stockholm-network.org/downloads/publications/d41d8cd9-HTA9%2019.07.pdf>

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