Seeking Excellence in Health Outcomes: A commentary on the history and practices of HTA in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in the UK

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About the speaker

Professor Ron Akehurst is Emeritus Professor of Health Economics at The University of Sheffield, where for 17 years he was Head of the School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), and is currently Strategic Director of BresMed Health Solutions Ltd. He has held a variety of roles in academia, government and the National Health Service in England. This has included being an Economic Adviser to the Department of Health and a Specialist Advisor to The House of Commons Health Select Committee. He is a former member of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)Topic Selection Committee; the NICE Technology Appraisal Committee and the NICE Public Health Interventions Advisory Committee. He is a current member of the NICE Diagnostics Advisory Committee and the NICE Highly Specialised Technologies Committee. For the Department of Health he serves on the Rare Diseases Advisory Committee. Both of the latter committees advise on different aspects of services for people with very rare conditions. He has been involved in developing NICE methodology since the inception of the Institute and has published widely on aspects of HTA.

Abstract

NICE is known internationally for its application of HTA to drugs approved for use in the English NHS. What is less well known is the variety of other applications pursued by NICE and the processes which led to its creation and currently to its continued evolution. In this talk the speaker will discuss the drive to make NICE a force for the improvement of health care and of health outcomes in England and the rest of the UK.

Topics covered will include a consideration of the involvement of the medical and allied professions in the early stage of the creation of the Institute; its expansion into all aspects of the delivery of health care; its attempts at transparency and inclusivity; its attempts to constantly improve the methods of HTA and its focus on implementation. □

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