PD238 Evolution Of The Consumer Evidence And Engagement Unit And Contribution To Consumer Input In Australian Health Technology Assessment Processes

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Introduction: Various committees provide health technology assessment (HTA) recommendations to the Australian government on health technology subsidization. All committees include consumer members, but operations vary across committees. To support the committee's consumer members and facilitate consumer input, the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) was launched in 2019. The CEEU aims to enhance inclusion of consumer input in Commonwealth HTA processes.
Methods: The CEEU operates within the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care in a hybrid format. The core functions of the CEEU include secretariat support for the HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC), which comprises consumer members from all HTA committees. The CEEU also summarizes consumer input for the HTA committees. In 2022, the CEEU launched the Conversations for Change series, which was developed through a range of different consultation activities. As a result, an ongoing "Changing Conversations" mandate is in place, to build and sustain relational, non-transactional partnerships in a true collaborative style.
Results: The HTA committees and subcommittees operate across cycles with overlapping timelines, requiring consumer input to be gathered at different timepoints for different purposes. The CEEU has launched materials, including the Consultation Hub and HTA Engage, and is developing a Consultation Toolkit to raise awareness and facilitate these processes. The role of the HTA CCC is evolving as a forum to enable consumer committee members to share experiences and receive CEEU support. Improvements in consultation processes have enabled the CEEU to provide consumer comments to consumer committee members to facilitate genuine representation of consumer and other external stakeholder views.
Conclusions: Managing consumer input can be resource intensive, however there is increasing recognition of the importance of consumer engagement in Australian HTA. The CEEU expects continued growth and a wider remit from 2024, as new processes and changes occur. Additional materials are planned to support consumer committee members and to build capacity among consumers and consumer organizations.

PD239 Assisted Daily Living: Stakeholder Involvement In Identifying Innovation Gaps, User Needs, And Potential Solutions

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Introduction: Technology is central in supporting older people with their daily tasks and independence at home. This project aimed to identify technologies that can be built into residential environments (e.g., appliances, fixtures, or fittings) to support older people in activities of daily living (ADL) through a horizon scan (HS) informed by public insights on unmet needs and priorities.
Methods: A survey of members of the public was conducted to prioritize outcomes included within an evidence and gap map (EGM) framework. The EGM aimed to illustrate the current landscape of technologies supporting ADL in residential settings (e.g., care homes) and innovation gaps. The EGM results were shared with end users in a workshop discussion on the current range of technologies aimed at supporting ADL in residential settings. This was facilitated using vignettes to elicit views on unmet needs and priorities for technology development. The workshop informed the scope of the HS to identify and prioritize emerging technologies that could address unmet needs.
Results: This project successfully embedded public involvement throughout to identify innovation gaps in technologies supporting ADL, unmet needs among end users, and potential solutions to these needs. The HS identified 190 technologies that were ready to market. All the technologies had potential to address identified unmet needs and could be built into the residential environment to support older people with ADL and to improve their quality of life, independence, and safety at home. Horizon scanning research can meaningfully involve stakeholders and take direction from their insights to enable voices less often heard to drive innovation in areas where it is needed.
Conclusions: Involving stakeholders in research using evidence synthesis and qualitative methods helps to gain a better understanding of gaps in innovation, the related unmet needs, and the technologies that might address these needs. Public involvement in the survey and workshop influenced the conduct and interpretation of the EGM, the scope of the HS, and the interpretation of the findings.

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