Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact assessment of Iran's Health Technology Assessment Programme

Authors:
Bahareh Yazdizadeh (byazdizadeh@tums.ac.ir)
Farideh Mohtasham (f-mohtasham@farabi.tums.ac.ir; faridehmohtasham@gmail.com)
Ashraf Velayati (a.velayati@sbmu.ac.ir)

Version: 2 Date: 31 Dec 2017

Author’s response to reviews:
We would like to thank the reviewer for his valuable comments. Considerable changes were made to the article in response to the reviewer’s comments. The reviewer’s comments have been framed.

Reviewer #1:
My previous comments in regards to this manuscript have been performed by authors, but in relation to my last comment namely: "Some HTA projects like PET scan, MRI 3 tesla, HBOT, HIFU prostate, Dual source CT angiography have big impacts on controlling of induced demands and controlling the market expenditures in Iran, I sensed this impact when I worked in HTA dept of Iran MOH as technical officer." The explanation of authors is not acceptable, these projects have high cost saving for Iran's health system, I think, the authors should elaborate the impact of at least one or two of mentioned projects; this matter will give a comprehensive view of HTA impacts in Iran.

In regards to reviewer’s comment we interviewed three people: two policy-makers from MOHME’s Standardization and Tariff Office and one people from The Article 20 Commission and then we added this sentences to article:

- The Article 20 Commission is where the HTA reports can be said to have definitely had an impact. As mentioned earlier, medical equipment need to receive licenses from the Article 20 Commission before they can be imported into the country for the first time. We observed that for 6 cases of medical equipment technology, the HTA reports results convinced the Article 20 Commission to only allow the entry of a limited number of each technology. Moreover, when the equipment – importing companies had been informed of the HTA results, they had
decided to cancel the imports themselves. It also appears that induced demand of novel technologies has largely been controlled due to the HTA reports and the impact they have had on the Article 20 Commission’s decisions. However, regarding other stakeholder organizations, the impact of HTA reports on decisions has not been very clear, and what needs to be improved is the active dissemination of report results to stakeholders.

- … and it is clear that the HTA’s results have influenced the Article 20’s decisions.