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Osteba

Osasun Teknologien Ebaluazioa
Evaluación de Tecnologías Sanitarias
Basque Office for Health Technology Assessment

CONTRIBUTION OF STAKEHOLDERS

Osteba, Basque Office for Health Technology Assessment, aims to promote the appropriate use of health technologies in terms of safety, effectiveness, accessibility and equity, providing information necessary for decision making at different levels of the Basque Health System: Health Policy, Health Benefit Package and Clinical Practice.

More particularly, the specific objectives are:

- **Advise** in decisions on the introduction into the health system of new and changing health technologies.
- **Reduce** the risk of introducing harmful or inefficient technologies in the healthcare system.
- **Share** and provide relevant information about the technology.
- **Advise** on technologies identified externally.
- **Assist** in the establishment of possible implementation scenarios in the healthcare system.
- **Identify** and establish criteria for disinvestment of obsolete technologies.

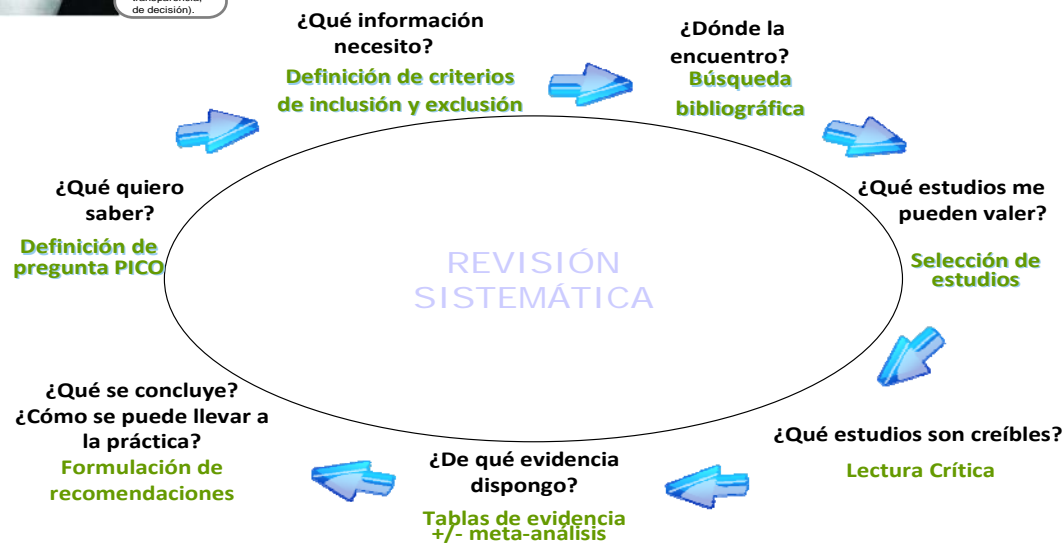
To this end, efforts have been made to optimize working methods, both in the literature searches, and critical appraisal of the different epidemiological designs, economic evaluation, identification and assessment of emerging and obsolete technologies, making recommendations and elaborating best evidence based Clinical Practice Guidelines.

A key part of our work is based on the critical appraisal of scientific literature, for which in the first phase we need to identify and obtain the maximum amount of information available and once applying explicit criteria, select the information that shows appropriate quality.

The search is performed on multiple sources of information through a structured and systematic process, but it may sometimes remain unidentified information.



MÉTODOS EXPLÍCITOS Y VERIFICABLES



Some manufacturers or distributors of technologies and / or drugs sometimes have pieces of information or reports that are unavailable in the databases of scientific literature. In other cases, they are aware of studies under development or preliminary but not yet reported results of other studies,.

So far the industry facilitates those studies or reports when information is required or when meanwhile they are aware of an evaluation project related to a topic of its interest.

Other stakeholders have sometimes provided relevant information along the process of elaborating recommendations. However, as in the case of the industry, this procedure has not been structured.

Therefore, we consider necessary to ensure communication channels with stakeholders, as it occurs in other countries and organizations, establishing an explicit procedure to structure the process, determine the limits and define the type of relationship. This procedure would ensure equal opportunities for all stakeholders.

Procedure:

1. Prior to starting any evaluation project, it will be communicated in the 'development projects' section of the web of Osteba the titles of those opened to contrinutions in a quarterly basis,.
2. Organizations wishing to provide additional information on the topics to evaluate have a month to do it.
3. We welcome information that is not accessible in common literature databases or is directed to find those unpublished studies.
4. Stakeholders can also communicate the existence of ongoing studies and an estimation on when it is likely to have final results. In this final case, those results will be considered for possible review and synthesis of information reading if they are finally published within the scheduled time for completing the evaluation.
5. It would be also interesting to have high quality economic analysis and / or impact analysis, qualitative studies in patients or professionals, organizational, ethical, social and / or legal studies.
6. Osteba will review the information received and make a selection based on explicit criteria, as it does with that identified by other means.
7. Evaluators will conduct a critical appraisal of selected articles after which they will make a synthesis of available scientific evidence.
8. Once they completed the projects, external review will be made by experts from different fields, with declared no conflict of interest.
9. Final reports shall be communicated to the relevant stakeholders and decision making levels, depending on the studied topic, so that the evidence can be used to incorporate the recommendations based on the best available evidence to the final decisions.

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