

National reimbursement policies need to reflect public preferences by engaging the public through deliberative processes.

Integrating public preferences into national reimbursement decisions: A descriptive comparison of approaches in Belgium and New Zealand

Christine Leopold¹, Christine Y. Lu¹, Anita K. Wagner¹

¹ Department of Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, Boston, MA, USA.

INTRODUCTION

1. Increasing pressures to make transparent and sustainable coverage decisions.
2. Need for public engagement in coverage decisions.

OBJECTIVES

Aim is to explore how Belgium and New Zealand used deliberative processes to engage the public to change their public reimbursement system and to identify lessons learned from these countries' approaches.

METHODS

1. Review of key country documents
2. Semi-structured interviews of 5 key stakeholders
3. Qualitative content analysis

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Need for political commitment to initiate change.
2. Need for broad involvement of all stakeholders.
3. Need for commitment of all to engage in a long-term process.

Organization leading the process	
Belgium National payer organization RIZIV/INAMI & 2 independent research institutions (KBF, KCE)	New Zealand National payer organization PHARMAC
Situation analysis	
Belgium - 2010 - Report on "Drug reimbursement system: international comparison and policy recommendations" (KCE report 147C)	New Zealand - 2012 - Group discussions at PHARMAC's public forum to review OPP
Type and structure of stakeholder engagement	
Belgium - 2012 - Formation of steering committee - 2014 - Formation of new Reimbursement Commission - Workshops with experts - Survey among the population	New Zealand - Various public consultations - Written feedback (including from consumers, Maori community, pharmaceutical industry, clinicians, professional organizations & members of the public and state sector agencies)
Identification of relevant criteria / methods & collection of data	
Belgium – 2012 to 2014 - EU workshops on "Justice & solidarity in priority setting" (KBF 2013) - Delphi panel on "Models for citizen and patient involvement in health care policy" (KCE 195C)	New Zealand – 2013 - 20 publications by leading academics on issue of access to and affordability of health care services - PHARMAC published information material
Deliberation and mode of outreach	
Belgium – 2014 - Discrete choice survey "Incorporating societal preferences in reimbursement decisions" (online with 4449 participants, KCE 234) - Citizen-lab (f2f on 3 weekends with 32 participants) - Citizen-dialogue in 10 regions organized by payer (f2f with around 400 participants)	New Zealand – 2013 to 2014 - 2013 PHARMAC's senior leadership lead 12 community forums (in churches, town halls etc.) - 2014 f2f stakeholder event - 2014 written comments with wide-ranging stakeholders (n= 49)

Contact information
 Christine Leopold, PhD
 Consultant
 Christleopold@gmx.net