

A comprehensive policy framework conceived as a practical instrument to analyse and evaluate pharmaceutical systems, identify functional gaps, and choose reform interventions fitting the specific local needs and capacities

A comprehensive pharmaceutical policy framework for decision-makers: functions, tools and data requirements

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

- World Health Report: medicines account for all three leading sources of inefficiency in health systems
- Moving towards UHC, countries face the impact of these inefficiencies on the health systems
- Various policy tools and methods have been developed - e.g. HTA, reference pricing, generic prescribing etc.
- There is limited guidance – specifically for low and middle-income countries decision-makers on which intervention, when and how to adapt to their specific country context

OBJECTIVE

- Develop a comprehensive framework including the multitude of stakeholders and policies that form a pharmaceutical system
- The framework should provide a practical instrument for decision-makers and practitioners to:
 - evaluate their current system
 - identify functional gaps
 - choose reform interventions and tools fitting their specific country needs

METHODS

- Multi-year, mixed methods work, across public & private sectors encompassing:
 - Desk review of policies, HTA assessments and qualitative interviews in 72 countries
 - Identified communalities of high income country systems
 - Results adjusted for middle-income settings (Eastern Europe)
 - Framework validated in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia

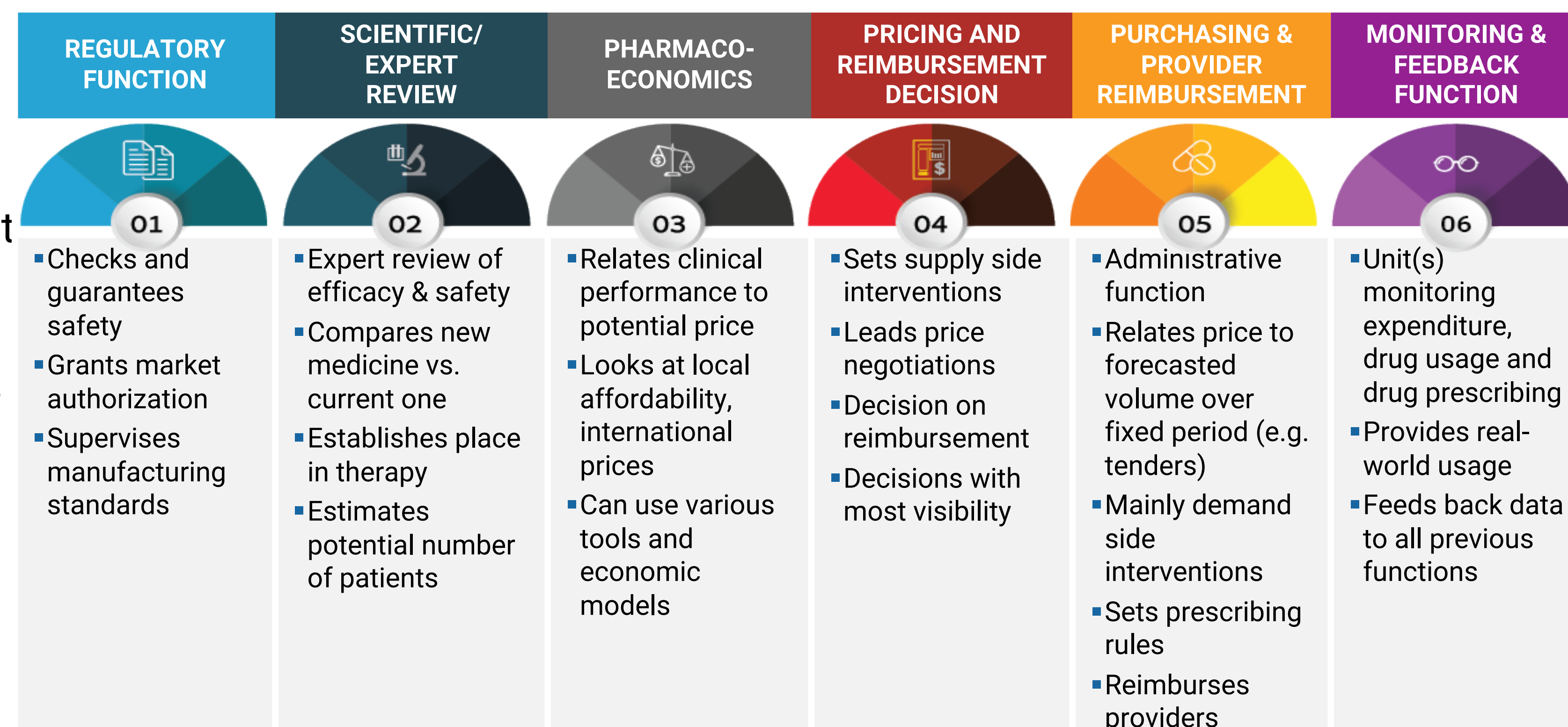
COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

- The framework has been recently used in Indonesia, Philippines and Togo
 - In Indonesia, it identified the main drivers behind the persistent out of pocket spending despite the newly introduced social health insurance
 - In Philippines, the framework was used to create and integrate the HTA unit within Department of Health and develop the Primary Care Benefit package
 - In Togo, the framework helped develop a sustainable formulary and adjusted pricing method for the public health insurance

THE FRAMEWORK – A STEP BY STEP APPROACH:

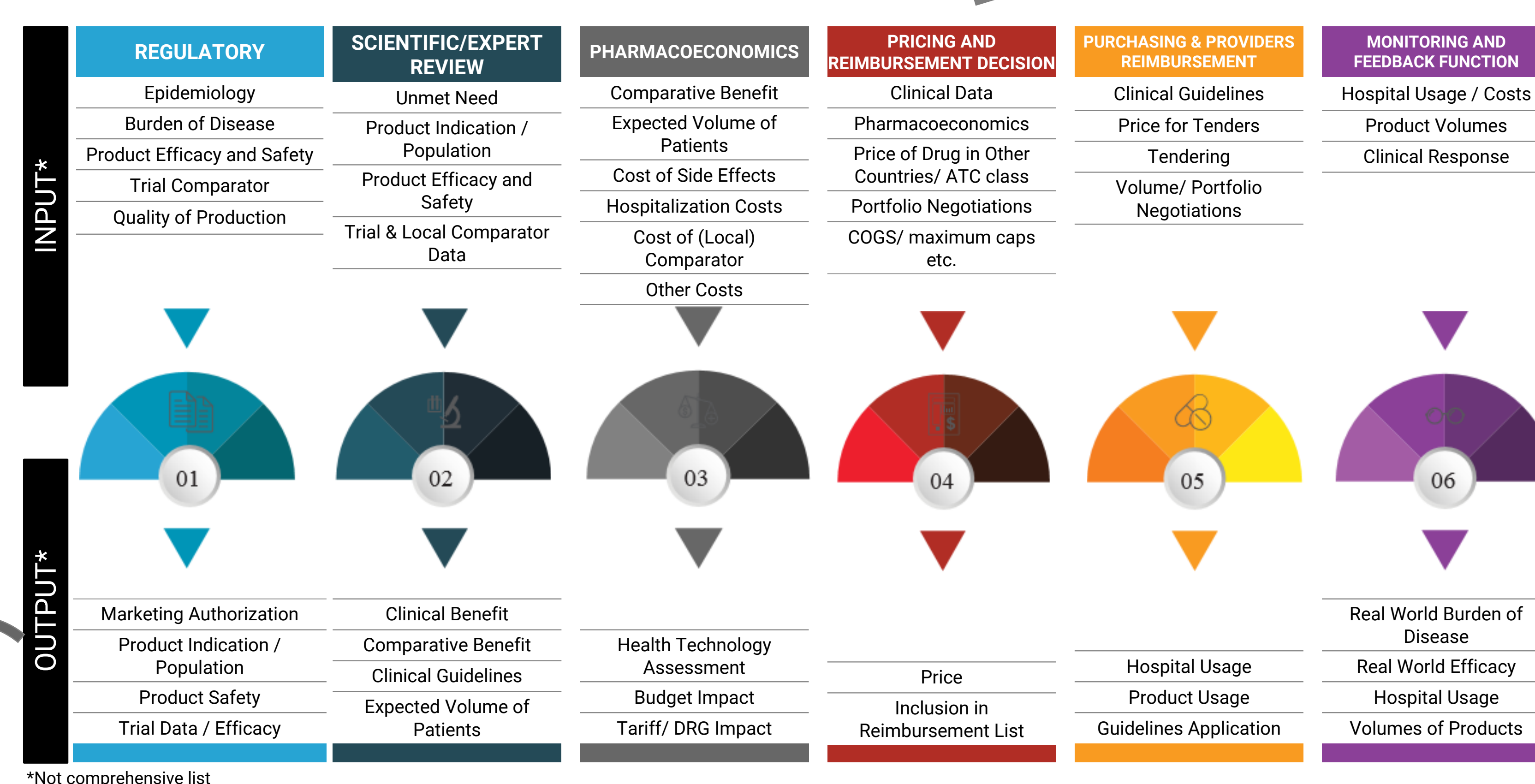
- Evaluate if the six mandatory functions of the system are present

➤ *Optimal:* all functions should be present, even if multiple institutions fulfil them



- When all functions are present, a very well defined sequence between the functions is needed to ensure optimal decision efficiency, starting from regulatory and ending with the monitoring and feedback function

- To ensure optimal system operations, each function should have a specific set of data and tools used, with the output generated by one function used as input by the next one



- The flow of information should be organised as a continuous process
- Feedback should be continuously available on volumes used, epidemiology, mortality and morbidity drivers, uptake of the new treatment, efficacy in real world settings, costs etc.

CONCLUSION The framework proposes a general approach that to be applied across low, middle and high-income settings. It helps decision-makers and technical staff analyse and envisage how the pharmaceutical system could be improved given the local context data availability and human capacity.

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