



Filling critical knowledge gaps for promising medical technology

“The Center for Medical Technology Policy is breaking new ground in bringing key players to the table to address the critical knowledge gaps health-care decision-makers face every day. It’s worthwhile work, and Kaiser Permanente is proud to be an early sponsor.”

■ Jed Weissberg MD
Associate Executive Director
Quality and Performance Improvement
The Permanente Federation

“The evidence base today consists of isolated islands of knowledge in a sea of emptiness. We need new feedback loops from our evidence reviews—processes to identify what’s missing and influence research funding to fill those gaps. CMTP is constructing new models that link the research agenda to the evidence need. This work is sorely needed to improve the quality of health care in the United States.”

■ Peggy O’Kane
President
National Committee
on Quality Assurance

“I was diagnosed with heart disease at 38 and have lived now to age 64, in large part because of successful clinical research conducted over the last several decades. I dream that my grandchildren won’t have to worry about heart disease. By mediating issues that can stand in the way of more real-world effectiveness research, CMTP plays an important role in driving the science to make that dream a reality.”

■ Lawrence Sadwin
Past Chairman
National Board of Directors
American Heart Association
and heart disease survivor



SUPPORT DECISION-BASED EVIDENCE MAKING

MAKING HIGH-QUALITY AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE for more people in the United States requires finding ways to get more health benefit for the dollars spent. Although evidence-based decision making has the potential to help achieve this goal, decision-makers too often encounter critical gaps in knowledge, leading to decisions based on unreliable evidence. These gaps suggest systematic flaws in the ability of the current research enterprise to generate the information decision-makers need. That's why, at the Center for Medical Technology Policy, we are focused on building the capacity for **DECISION-BASED EVIDENCE MAKING**.

We bring together decision-makers—health plans, patients and clinicians—with technology developers and clinical researchers to collaborate on evidence development. These experts and stakeholders work together to identify important unanswered questions, design studies to answer those questions, and secure resources needed to implement the studies.

We believe everyone benefits from this approach. Patients and clinicians get the information they need to make better treatment decisions. Health plans and public payers are able to make fairer and more defensible coverage decisions. And product developers gain a more transparent and predictable reimbursement environment.

CMTP's approach to decision-based evidence making will facilitate informed decisions on emerging health-care technologies through real-world research. But we need your help to make it happen. Please consider joining CMTP. Together, we can make more informed use of the health care technologies and services we have today, and speed adoption of great technology in the future.

Sean Tunis, MD, MSc
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY

How We're Different

CMTP is sometimes confused with organizations that do systematic reviews or technology assessment. But CMTP has a fundamentally different focus. While those groups review and synthesize existing evidence to support health-care decision-making, CMTP's mission is to generate new evidence. In a sense, CMTP starts where the others leave off. When an evidence review concludes that the evidence decision-makers need to evaluate an important technology is lacking, CMTP can help. Our role is to develop new research that will generate credible and timely information about the real-world benefits and risks of the technology compared to existing alternative therapies.

ABOUT US

THE CENTER FOR MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY (CMTP) provides a neutral forum where patients, clinicians, payers, manufacturers and researchers work together to identify and fund prospective, real-world research to inform health-care decision-making. CMTP-facilitated studies will provide credible and timely information about the risks, benefits and costs of emerging health care technologies compared to existing treatments.

Our objectives are to:

- Fully incorporate all major health care decision-maker perspectives in comparative effectiveness research prioritization and study design,
- Facilitate rapid evidence development and early adoption of high-value technologies, thus protecting innovation incentives, and
- Improve the value of health care spending by supporting robust, evidence-based decisions.

OUR PRODUCTS & SERVICES

WE OFFER A SUITE of four complementary products:

■ Priorities for Evidence Development (PED)

We use systematic reviews, clinical guidelines, decision models and retrospective studies to identify critical gaps in existing evidence. Multi-stakeholder groups prioritize these gaps against appropriate criteria.

■ Guidance documents

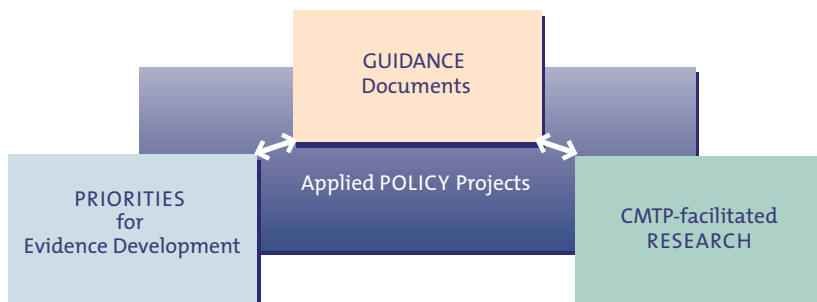
These documents clarify the evidence requirements and study design parameters needed to fill evidence gaps identified through the PED.

■ CMTP-facilitated research

We coordinate research on selected PED topics that meet key criteria (e.g., pragmatic trial design, reasonable size and duration).

■ Applied Policy Projects

We conduct critical policy analyses and promote methods development to support our mission. For example, we are developing model benefit language to facilitate private-sector coverage with evidence development.



Why Your Organization Should Support CMTP

Membership in CMTP will provide new opportunities for medical product manufacturers, public and private payers, patients and clinicians to work cooperatively and early in the development cycle of emerging high-value products. CMTP members will be able to:

- Employ new strategies for early engagement with high-value, high-demand technologies
- Participate in setting national research priorities
- Define evidence standards for new technologies
- Support clinical research to answer your questions
- Coordinate and learn with patients, clinicians, payers, technology innovators and other stakeholders
- Author/access technical reviews
- Share credible voice in national policy debates (e.g., comparative effectiveness research)

FUNDING & GOVERNANCE

CMTTP USES a combination of membership dues and grants for our applied policy projects to fund infrastructure and initial product development. Medical product companies and health plans will cooperatively fund selected research projects (e.g., through a private-sector version of coverage with evidence development) while other studies might be funded by government agencies such as the NIH, AHRQ and/or a new, federal comparative effectiveness research entity. In the future, a research surcharge for ongoing trials will fund our oversight functions and the development of new projects.

CMTTP is governed by a Board of Directors composed of three consumer/patient representatives, two clinician representatives, three representatives from major national or regional health plans, three medical product industry representatives and four “at large” representatives (e.g., academics, self-insured employers, venture capitalists).

The founding directors representing health plans and the medical product industry are invited from organizations providing endowment membership contributions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To become a CMTTP member, contact:

Weslie Kary
Center for Medical Technology Policy
524 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107

Phone: (415) 537-6977
E-mail: weslie.kary@cmttpnet.org
Web: www.cmttpnet.org

Filling an Unmet Need

Generating the data needed to support an evidence-based healthcare system requires collective effort. Individual stakeholders acting alone will generally not have the resources or market incentives to close the evidence gaps for emerging health care technologies. Trials funded solely by industry are vulnerable to conflict-of-interest claims in study design or results reporting. A single private payer may be punished by the market for investing in costly clinical research when results will be available to all. Public sector efforts are vulnerable to statutory constraints and political pressure, and may be difficult to conduct rapidly or efficiently.

As a *private, nonprofit organization*, CMTTP is uniquely positioned to facilitate the design and funding of timely research that benefits multiple stakeholders. Our methods, strategies and procedures will also serve as a useful model for the likely expansion of the national capacity for comparative effectiveness research.