



Center for Medical Technology Policy
Development Phase
January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007

The Center for Medical Technology Policy (CMTP) is a private, non-profit organization that provides a neutral forum in which patients, clinicians, payers, manufacturers and researchers can work together to design and implement prospective, real world studies to inform health care decisions. The primary goal of CMTP is to improve the process for generating credible and timely information about the real world risks, benefits and costs of promising new medical technologies.

The specific objectives of the CMTP are to:

- Fully incorporate the perspective of health care decision makers in research priorities and study design.
- Facilitate rapid evidence development, adoption of valuable technologies and the appropriate and efficient use of these technologies.
- Limit the adoption and use of technologies of limited or uncertain benefit.
- Maintain incentives for innovators and investors to develop new high value technologies.
- Develop a collaborative model of health care research for other organizations interested in expanding the supply of relevant and reliable evidence for decision makers.

Initial funding for CMTP comes from the California Healthcare Foundation and the Blue Shield of California Foundation. CMTP is led by Sean Tunis, MD, MSc and Wade Aubry, MD and housed within the Health Technology Center in San Francisco.

Why is CMTP Needed?

Substantial increases in funding of basic sciences, clinical research and translational research are having the desired result of expanding the pipeline of potentially valuable new medical technologies. The nation has yet to apply comparable focus to building an evidence base that will support informed adoption and use of these technologies. As a result, health care decision makers (patients, clinicians, payers and purchasers) are often faced with difficult decisions concerning medical technology with limited information about its benefits, risks and costs. The absence of reliable information may impede adoption of high value technologies and/or promote overuse of low value or ineffective technologies. CMTP will improve the quality and supply of evidence for decisions by fully engaging decision makers in all aspects of evidence development.

Overview of Primary Activities

CMTP's primary activities during the development phase are to design and begin implementation of clinical studies for three pilot project topics. As part of this process, CMTP will develop methods for priority setting among potential high value new technologies. CMTP will also create a robust organizational structure of advisory committees to support its work. Lastly, steps will be taken to develop a sustainable long-term funding model to support the CMTP and its designed study protocols.

In May 2006, CMTP's steering committee selected five potential pilot project topics, based on specific pre-established criteria. The topics selected were: 1) intensity-modulated radiation therapy for prostate cancer, 2) delivery of ICU care through telemedicine, 3) minimally-invasive bariatric surgery, 4) Oncotype-Dx test for predicting risk of recurrence of breast cancer, 5) CT angiography for diagnosis of coronary artery disease.

Small multi-disciplinary workgroups, consisting of product developers, clinicians, payers, methodologists, patients and other stakeholders, have now been formed for each potential topic. The role of these workgroups is to:

- Identify the specific questions that health care decision makers have about each technology
- Determine the study methods that will be needed to address these questions, with emphasis on real-world, pragmatic designs
- Develop study protocol outlines for 3 of the 5 technologies
- Initiate partnerships necessary for study funding and implementation

The workgroup discussions of important unanswered questions, methods, funding, and implementation are expected to provide generalizable insights into the real world evaluation of the broader categories of technologies that these specific pilot topics represent.

Additional activities:

Since its inception in January 2006, CMTP has developed active working relationships with key regional and national decision makers, stakeholders and experts. CMTP has also established links with other organizations focused on technology policy and evidence development, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the New England Healthcare Institute (NEHI), the HMO Research Network (HMORN), the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA), the Institute for Clinical and Economic Research (ICER), the California Technology Assessment Forum, the Critical Path Institute (C-PATH) and others.

In addition, CMTP is:

- Working with several patient advocacy organizations and physician groups to explore collaborative mechanisms for priority setting
- Convening a series of in-person and conference-call meetings of organizations working in the area of evidence-based technology policy: the Technology Policy Collaborative
- Convening a workshop focused on pragmatic clinical trials, cluster-randomized trials, quasi-experimental designs and other methods intended to increase the speed and affordability of prospective clinical studies.
- Drafting a 5-year strategic plan, including options for medium and long term funding.

CMTP has recently launched a web site to support our ongoing activities, and to support information exchange and collaboration between working group members and the Technology Policy Collaborative. For more information, visit www.cmtpNet.org or contact Ryan Padrez (r.padrez@cmtpNet.org) or Weslie Kary (w.kary@cmtpNet.org).