

Setting Priorities and Encouraging Transparency in Healthcare

MCDA is a deliberative process used to aid decision making in healthcare, in which decisions take into account multiple considerations and perspectives of different stakeholders. Identifying, prioritizing, and addressing healthcare objectives systematically helps ensure that the needs of all interested parties are considered in healthcare decisions—with increased participation and greater transparency¹⁻³

MCDA CAN BE PERFORMED **USING BASIC STEPS***

DEFINE THE PROBLEM⁴

What decision is being made?

What are the alternative actions under consideration?

Who are the stakeholders?

CRITERIA⁴⁻⁸

Identify the objectives (criteria for success) of all interested parties

MEASURE PERFORMANCE^{4,6,7}

Determine how to measure the performance of each alternative action on each criteria

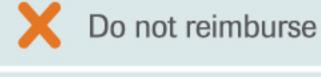
MCDA EXAMPLE 10

Decision: Should a novel monoclonal antibody (obinutuzumab) for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma be reimbursed?

Alternatives:



Reimburse



Stakeholders:



Patients, clinicians, payers

Potential criteria:



Need for the intervention



Comparative outcomes



Type of benefit



Economic impact



Knowledge about intervention

Performance parameters:

Need:	Outcomes:	Type of benefit:	Economic:	Knowledge:
disease severity unmet need (innovation) size of patient population	effectiveness (eg., progression- free survival) /safety patient-perceived benefit	preventive versus therapeutic	other medical costs non-medical costs	quality of evidence expert consensus guideline support



Additional MCDA steps will vary across health systems, but may include methods for weighing (prioritizing) criteria, selecting scoring methods, calculating an aggregate score that captures an intervention's total value, accounting for uncertainty, and analyzing and reporting results in a useful format.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the WHO, countries are increasingly using MCDA for health technology assessment as an alternative to standard cost-effectiveness analyses9

Using MCDA, alternative actions can be ranked based on their overall performance.5 MCDA can:



Promote participation and transparency in the health sector^{1,3,4,8}

Transparency means more accountability

of public entities and other decision makers, and may provide patients with valuable information about the basis for the healthcare decisions that impact their lives.

WHO=World Health Organization. We thank Martina Garau, Principal Economist at the Office of Health Economics, for her review of this material.

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