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Horizon scanning can play a pivotal role in accelerating patient access to the latest therapeutic innovation

- Horizon scanning can play a pivotal role in earlier identification of transformative and disruptive technologies to build a shared understanding of how to bring these medicines to patients without delay.
- The Annual Horizon Scanning Forum is an opportunity to showcase emerging, disruptive therapies expected to launch in Australia in the medium and long term.
- The Forum is intended to be a catalyst to build relationships and start dialogue towards a nationally coordinated horizon scanning system that will benefit Australian patients.

Possible policy solutions

The first Annual Horizon Scanning Forum established under the Strategic Agreement between Medicines Australia and the Australian Government will be held in 2022.

The Forum will feature presentations on breakthrough innovation and the potential implications for the Commonwealth from the introduction of these innovations for resources, systems and processes. Importantly, the Forum can be a catalyst, starting a dialogue about the development of a nationally coordinated horizon scanning model and what needs to be addressed to deliver timely access for patients.

A nationally coordinated horizon scanning model should:

1. **Identify transformative technologies that should be fast-tracked from early in the development process.** These technologies should be identified via broad stakeholder input and considered on a three-year time horizon for entry to regulatory and/or reimbursement systems to adequately allow for resourcing and service planning. To fully understand the magnitude of disruption that each technology presents, it is important that there is an upfront and holistic consideration of patient, economic, financial and system impacts.
2. **Engage, involve and align key stakeholders that are relevant to the technologies being considered, including:**
 - Commonwealth bodies that integral to the approval process for new medicines, such as the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and the Department of Health.

- State and Territory Governments as active participants due to their responsibility for healthcare service planning and the national commitment to cohesive Health Technology Assessment (HTA).
- Patients, carers and their advocates to ensure consideration of these perspectives.

3. Disseminate horizon scanning outputs in a systematic and timely way to stakeholders.

What is horizon scanning?

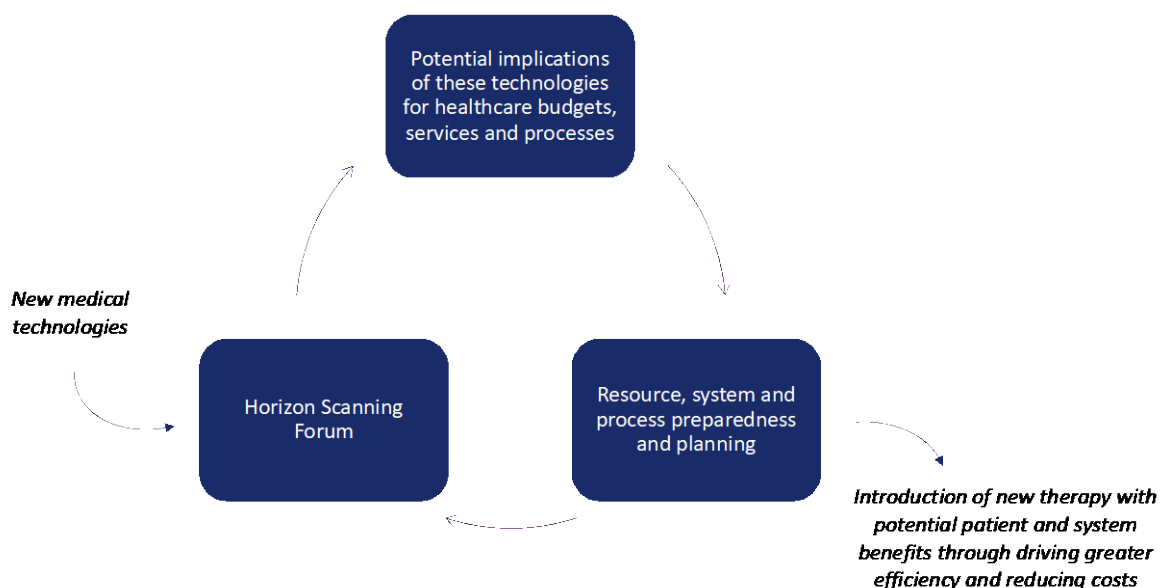
Horizon scanning is the systematic process of identifying innovative medical technologies that may launch in Australia. The Commonwealth and Medicines Australia have a shared ambition to promote greater understanding and insight into the new medicines, vaccines and new and emerging technologies coming through development pipelines, in order to facilitate faster access for Australian patients.

The case for coordinated horizon scanning in Australia

New technologies, including precision medicines and gene therapies, have the potential to transform healthcare, save lives and significantly improve outcomes for patients. However, the diffusion of these medicines into the Australian health system is becoming increasingly complex, challenging traditional funding models, assessment processes and resourcing. These technologies pose the greatest challenges to solve, noting complex change takes time.

Currently there is no nationally coordinated horizon scanning process that assists in planning for the adoption of innovative medical technologies into our healthcare system. There are examples occurring in Australia we can build on, and international examples applied by other jurisdictions we can borrow from. Establishing a coordinated horizon scanning approach would be an important step to align on the implications these innovations pose for resourcing, systems and processes and to take steps to address these prior to their arrival to Australia.

Figure 1: Integrated horizon scanning: a virtuous circle for adopting innovation in the Australian healthcare system.



NOTE: This Discussion Paper is not a final position paper. It has been developed as a conversation starter and to support discussion and feedback

Feedback

Do you have any thoughts on the policy ideas in these papers? We'd love to hear your feedback! Please let us know at this email address: HTA-Reform@medicinesaustralia.com.au.