

For immediate release

Feb. 5, 2015

HCA selects nine health technologies for evidence-based review

Now accepting public comment on what research the reviews should include

OLYMPIA – The Health Care Authority (HCA) has selected seven technologies to be reviewed, beginning in 2016, by its Health Technology Assessment Program (HTA). In addition, two previously reviewed technologies have been selected for re-review. The public is invited to comment on information and evidence that should be considered for inclusion in the review of the selected topics by 5 p.m., March 12, 2015, on the [HTA website](#) or by [email](#).

After consultation with participating state agencies and a 14-day public comment period, HCA Director Dorothy Teeter has selected the following technologies for future review:

- **Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO):** ECMO is a critical care treatment that provides heart-lung bypass support outside of a patient's body.
- **Bronchial thermoplasty for asthma:** Bronchial thermoplasty is a procedure used to treat asthma that is not well-controlled by medication.
- **Novocure/Optune®, also described as tumor treating fields:** Novocure/Optune® is a medical device currently approved for treatment of adult patients with brain cancer (glioblastoma multiforme) that has recurred following chemotherapy.
- **Pharmacogenetic testing:** A growing number of new laboratory tests and computer-based predictive algorithms are available to assess an individual patient's potential metabolic response to certain drugs.
- **Platelet-rich plasma injections for healing:** Platelet rich plasma (PRP) injections are proposed for a variety of wound-healing applications.
- **Negative-pressure wound therapy for in-home use:** Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) is used in the treatment of slow or non-healing wounds. Home use of NPWT includes use of a portable device.
- **Fecal microbiota instillation:** Primary use is to treat individuals with difficult-to-treat infections caused by *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*). Frozen stool containing a healthy balance of bacteria (flora) from healthy donors is transplanted to an infected individual's bowel to restore the normal balance of bacteria.

In addition, two previously reviewed health technologies have been determined to have new evidence that may change the previous coverage decision. The two technologies selected for re-review are:

- **Cardiac stents.** New literature, changing standard practices and new absorbable stent devices support a re-review.
- **Spinal injections.** New literature and new safety concerns support a re-review.

HCA's HTA program reviews these technologies using contracted evidence review groups. The Health Technology Clinical Committee reviews the reports to determine whether state-purchased health care should pay for the technology.

The Health Technology Assessment program was created by the Legislature to review health care technologies with evidence-based criteria, making sure that they are safe and effective, and that they offer a significant benefit before recommending their use to state health care programs including Apple Health (Medicaid), Public Employee Benefits, and the Department of Labor and Industries (workers' compensation program).

[See more information.](#)

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About Washington State Health Care Authority

HCA oversees the state's top two health care purchasers — Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employee Benefits Board Program. We work with partners to help ensure Washingtonians have access to better health and better care at a lower cost. For more information, visit www.hca.wa.gov.