

Supplementary File 1: Interview Guide

Title of the Study: Challenges in Developing Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment in Iran: Insights from Health System Experts

Participant Information and Assurances

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. The purpose of this interview is to explore the challenges associated with developing and implementing Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment (HB-HTA) in Iranian hospitals. Your insights will help us understand the barriers, gaps, and potential solutions for enhancing HB-HTA processes in the healthcare system. Please be assured that your participation is completely voluntary, and you can choose not to answer any question you feel uncomfortable with. All information you provide will be kept confidential, and your identity will not be revealed in any reports or publications resulting from this study. Your responses will be anonymized, and the data will be securely stored. The results of this study will be used solely for academic purposes. If you have any questions during or after the interview, feel free to ask. I am here to ensure that you understand the purpose of this study and how your input will contribute to it.

Main Question	Probing Questions
1. Can you describe your experience with health technology assessment (HTA) in the context of Iranian hospitals?	How were you first introduced to HTA? In what capacity have you applied it?
2. What are the key challenges you face when trying to implement or participate in HB-HTA in Iranian hospitals?	Can you give concrete examples? Which challenges are most critical?
3. Do you believe there are sufficient institutional structures in place within hospitals for conducting HTA? Why or why not?	Which structures exist? What is missing?
4. How do financial constraints impact the implementation of HB-HTA in hospitals?	Can you share examples of budget-related decisions?
5. What is the level of awareness among hospital staff about HTA?	What strategies could improve awareness?
6. What role do hospital managers and clinicians play in the HTA process?	How do their attitudes or decisions affect implementation?
7. Do you think specific training programs on HTA are needed for staff?	Which areas (economic evaluation, clinical evidence, policy) should be prioritized?
8. What is your opinion on the current data infrastructure in hospitals?	How does data availability affect HB-HTA quality?
9. How do external factors (e.g., government regulations, policies) influence HB-HTA?	Which policies are most supportive or restrictive?
10. What steps should be taken to improve HB-HTA implementation?	Which actors should take the lead?

Databases and Keywords Used in Preparation:

The interview guide was developed after a literature review using PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science with the following keywords: “Hospital-Based HTA,” “health technology assessment,” “Iran,” “implementation challenges,” and “policy barriers.” Three HTA experts reviewed the guide for relevance and clarity before piloting.

Pilot Testing:

The guide was piloted with five experts. Feedback was used to refine wording, order of questions, and probing prompts. These five participants were excluded from the final study sample.

Thank you very much for your time and insights. Your participation in this study is incredibly valuable and will contribute to the development of strategies for improving hospital-based health technology assessments in Iran. If you have any further questions or concerns about the study or your participation, please feel free to reach out to me at any time. If you'd like to receive a summary of the study results, please let me know, and I will make sure to share it with you once the study is complete.