

A comprehensive value appraisal framework for interventions in health care and social services: INESSS Statement of Principles and Ethical Foundations

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BACKGROUND

- The mission of INESSS is to promote clinical excellence and efficient use of resources across Quebec's health and social services system.
- INESSS develops knowledge products and recommendations regarding the introduction, coverage, optimal use or withdrawal of interventions in physical and mental health and social services in order to support fair and reasonable decisions.

OBJECTIVE

To develop a *Statement of Principles and Ethical foundations* for a common appraisal framework across divers interventions and technologies, geared towards value creation for users, patients and the population.

METHODS

- To develop this statement, INESSS mobilized a diversity of expertise across its units. The process of development included:
 - a review of practices across different units of INESSS;
 - a survey of the literature and innovative practices;
 - a consideration of the evolution of theoretical concepts;
 - a consultative process that involved the different bodies of INESSS as well as its partners and the community.
- The Statement was approved by the Board of Directors in June 2021.
- The implementation of the appraisal framework will be evolutive. The statement of principles falls into this progressive implementation process.

RESULTS

AN APPROACH BASED ON A GLOBAL APPRAISAL OF VALUE

An intervention provides value to the extent its use or its implementation contribute to the Triple Aim of the health and social services system in Quebec's context; that is, it:

- 1. Improves the health and well-being of its users (clinical dimension);
- 2. Contributes to a better state of health and well-being for the population in keeping with equity considerations (**populational dimension**);
- 3. Optimises the use of resources to support their responsible and sustainable management (economic dimension);
- 4. Fits into the organisational context of care and service delivery in a manner that contributes to strengthen the health and social services system (**organisational dimension**);
- 5. Fits into the context of Quebec's society in a manner that promotes its evolution towards the common good (**sociocultural dimension**).

AN INSTITUTIONAL PROCESS GUIDED BY FIVE PRINCIPLES



PRINCIPLE 2

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION AND INTEGRATION

Mobilize and integrate knowledge from complementary sources using scientifically valid and rigorous methods to allow a clear understanding of what is known about theintervention as well as limits, uncertainties and associated ethical issues.



MULTIDIMENSIONAL DELIBERATION

Drawing on the knowledge mobilized, identify arguments regarding whether the intervention contributes to creating value in each dimension, discuss their strength and relative importance vis-à-vis the collective well-being of the population, and provide a rationale and orientations for the recommendations.



GLOBAL VALUE APPRAISAL

PRINCIPLE 4

FAIR, REASONABLE AND VALUE-ADDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a recommendation to support fair, reasonable and value-adding decisions regarding the introduction, optimal use, or withdrawal of the intervention and clearly and transparently articulate the arguments on which it is based.



PRINCIPLE 1

RELEVANCE OF OBJECTS

AND ADAPTATION OF EVALUATION MODALITIES

Focus evaluation efforts on objects that have the greatest potential of value creation, through the transformation of practices, the introduction or the improved use of an intervention or its withdrawal or refusal to introduce. Adapt evaluation modalities to decision-making needs, the challenges encountered and the levels of uncertainty.

PRINCIPLE 5

SUPPORT FOR VALUE CREATION AND REASSESSMENT



Promote the implementation of the recommendations and optimal use of the intervention by supporting knowledge transfer, specification of implementation modalities and reassessment.

CONCLUSION

Moving forward, INESSS's strategic intention is to mobilize its staff and collaborators around the rigorous, agile and consistent application of these principles for value appraisal throughout the organization.

