Pre-Conference on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and Public Health

Date: Wednesday, 9th of November 2011, 13.00 - 17.00

Venue: Danish Regions, Copenhagen Office, Dampfærgevej 22, DK-2100 Copenhagen

About the pre-conference:

Purpose/objectives: What do we do when we have to choose between different interventions, different treatments and different preventive initiatives? To choose is to prioritize and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a tool which is developed for the exact purpose to assist in the process of prioritizing. When using HTA in the priority process you get a nuance basis for decision, which includes relevant information about effect, economic, organisation, patient/citizen and ethical issues.

The pre-conference will give you a brief introduction to HTA: What is an HTA? What is the purpose of conducting HTAs? How do we in reality conduct HTAs? The pre-conference will explicate which issues are best suited for HTAs. Specific examples will illustrate the processes that HTAs are thought to support.

The purpose of the HTA pre-conference is to increase the knowledge about HTA as a method. Additional it is to make visible how the use of HTA within the area of Public Health would be beneficial. By the end of the conference the participants should be able to identify relevant issues within their field of interest that are well suited for HTAs and to have an idea of how evaluate these issues according to the principals of HTA.

The participants at the HTA pre-conference will be introduced to different kinds of HTA “products” since the HTA been conducted is depending of the question been asked.

Definition of Health Technology Assessment: HTA is a multidisciplinary process that summarises information about the medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner. Its aim is to inform the formulation of safe, effective, health policies that are patient-focused and seek to achieve best value.

Despite its policy goals, HTA must always be firmly rooted in research and the scientific method.

Programme:

13.00 – 13.30
Short introduction to Health Technology Assessment (HTA) including the need for and benefits of HTAs in relation to Welfare Development and Public Health.

   - Health Technologies or Medical Technologies can broadly be defined as procedures and methods used e.g. in health protection, disease prevention as well as in primary and secondary health services. Assessment of interventions in health services can take place in many parts of the process. The pre-conference will demonstrate the wide use of HTAs in the area of Public Health.

13.30 – 14.15
Mini-HTA – a flexible tool assisting professionals and decision makers in e.g. municipal councils.
Mini-HTA is regarded as a flexible and dynamic tool that can be adapted to the local conditions and the current needs of an administration and/or policy makers. Mini-HTA can rather easily be incorporated into local and regional budgets and planning processes. In this way local councils can make informed decisions about the appropriate use of resources in organizing or reorganizing initiatives/activities.

14.15 – 14.45
How do you identify relevant issues for further examination and analysis relevant for Public Health interventions?

- Variation and grow in the use of health services and health care costs going together with uncertainty about interventions are some of the issues raised when considering which areas to look into. Due to e.g. a large potential patient population, a observed growth in specified activities, a regional variation in activity and growth patterns, uncertainty about which preventive methods are most beneficial the pre-conference will discuss how a particular topic is chosen for further inspection.

14.45 – 15.15
Break

15.15 – 15.45
Screening – assessing new and existing programmes for early detection or precursors for disease in primary and secondary health care sector.

- It is important to conduct a thorough assessment of a screening programme prior to any implementation in the primary or secondary health care system. In an assessment process it is important to determine whether the screening program overall makes more good than harm, and at the same time whether it is an “economically” good idea.

15.45 – 16.30
Presentation of HTAs related to screening programmes in the perspective of Welfare Development and Public Health.

16.30 – 17.00
Summing up and outlining the benefits of HTAs in Public Health.

- How can HTAs help introduce the measures/activities/actions required for best possible health and quality of life of citizens?
- What is the role of HTAs in health protection and disease prevention?
- Further perspectives of HTAs in the area of Public Health.