

From Insight to Foresight: Singapore's Experience In Horizon Scanning Of Medical Technologies

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Introduction

In response to the rapid emergence of medical technologies (MedTechs) that diffuse readily into the healthcare system, the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) in Singapore has established a horizon scanning (HS) system for MedTechs since 2020 to:

- Provide advance notice of new and emerging MedTechs to healthcare policymakers and providers for early service planning;
- Safeguard against the use of low-value MedTechs; and
- Identify potential topics for HTA for subsidy consideration.

This poster describes ACE's early HS experience and future opportunities to enable a fit-for-purpose HS system.

Methods

- A review of ACE's key HS activities was conducted using a mixed-method approach (Figure 1).

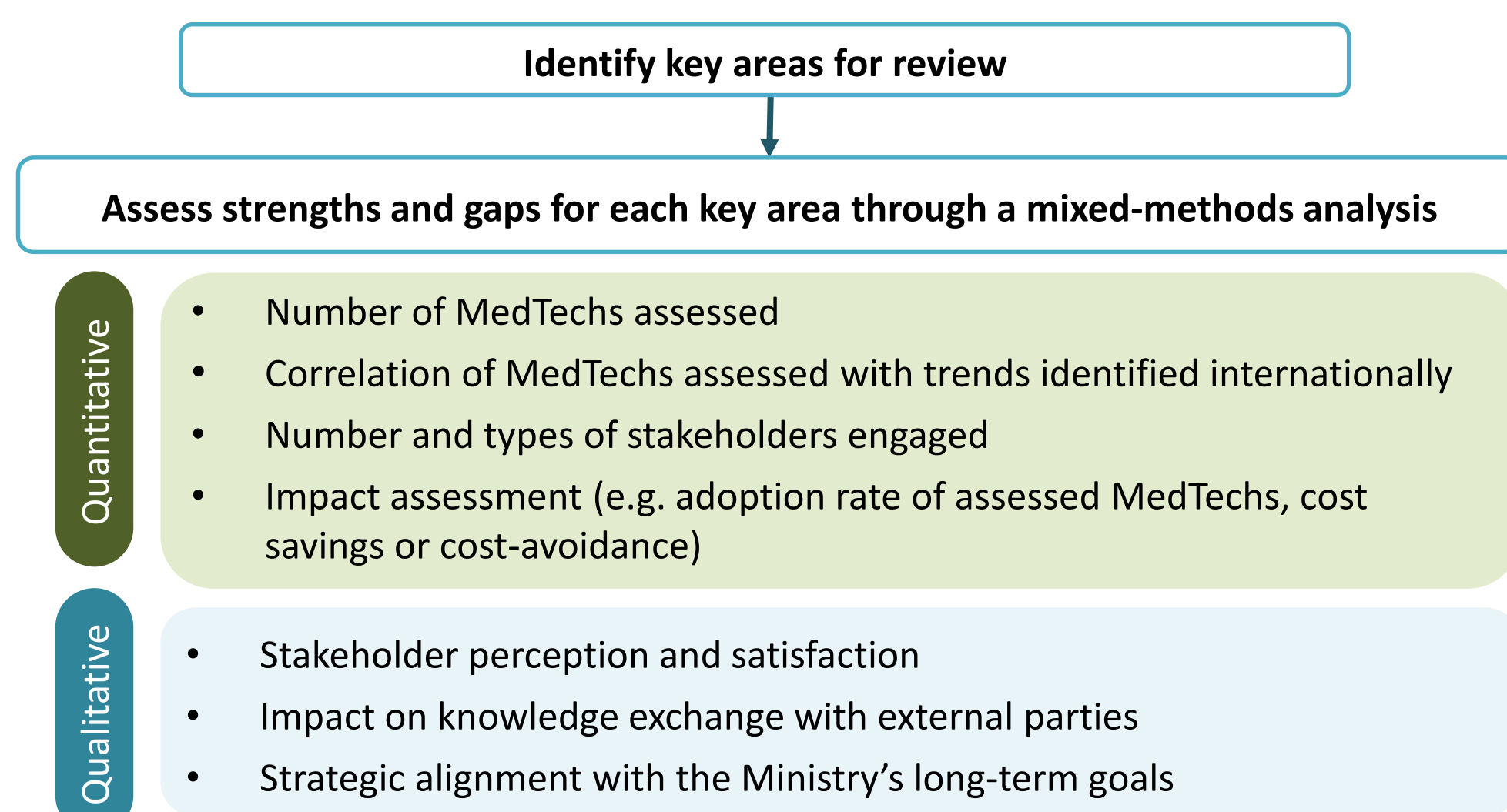


Figure 1: Mixed-methods analysis based on qualitative and quantitative measures

Results

- Four key areas of ACE's HS activities were identified and analysed for its strengths and gaps (Figure 2).
- Key strengths included development and dissemination of HS reports (n=20) to over 100 key stakeholders with positive feedbacks received **(1)**, enabling early HTA **(2)**, broad stakeholder engagements **(3)** and active sharing of knowledge **(4)**.
- Key gaps included unclear downstream impact of HS activities, limited diversity of HS products **(1)** and wider stakeholder engagement including patient involvement in the HS process **(3, 4)**.
- The review recommended diversifying HS outputs, strengthening patient involvement and formal impact assessment through stakeholder surveys.

Discussion

- Through ACE's HS system, the healthcare system can be better prepared for the introduction of new MedTechs. However, like international experiences, its impact remains unclear mainly due to its short period of establishment.
- To better serve the needs of our stakeholders, future initiatives identified include formal impact assessment, enhancing stakeholder engagement to potentially include patients, and broadening the type of outputs.

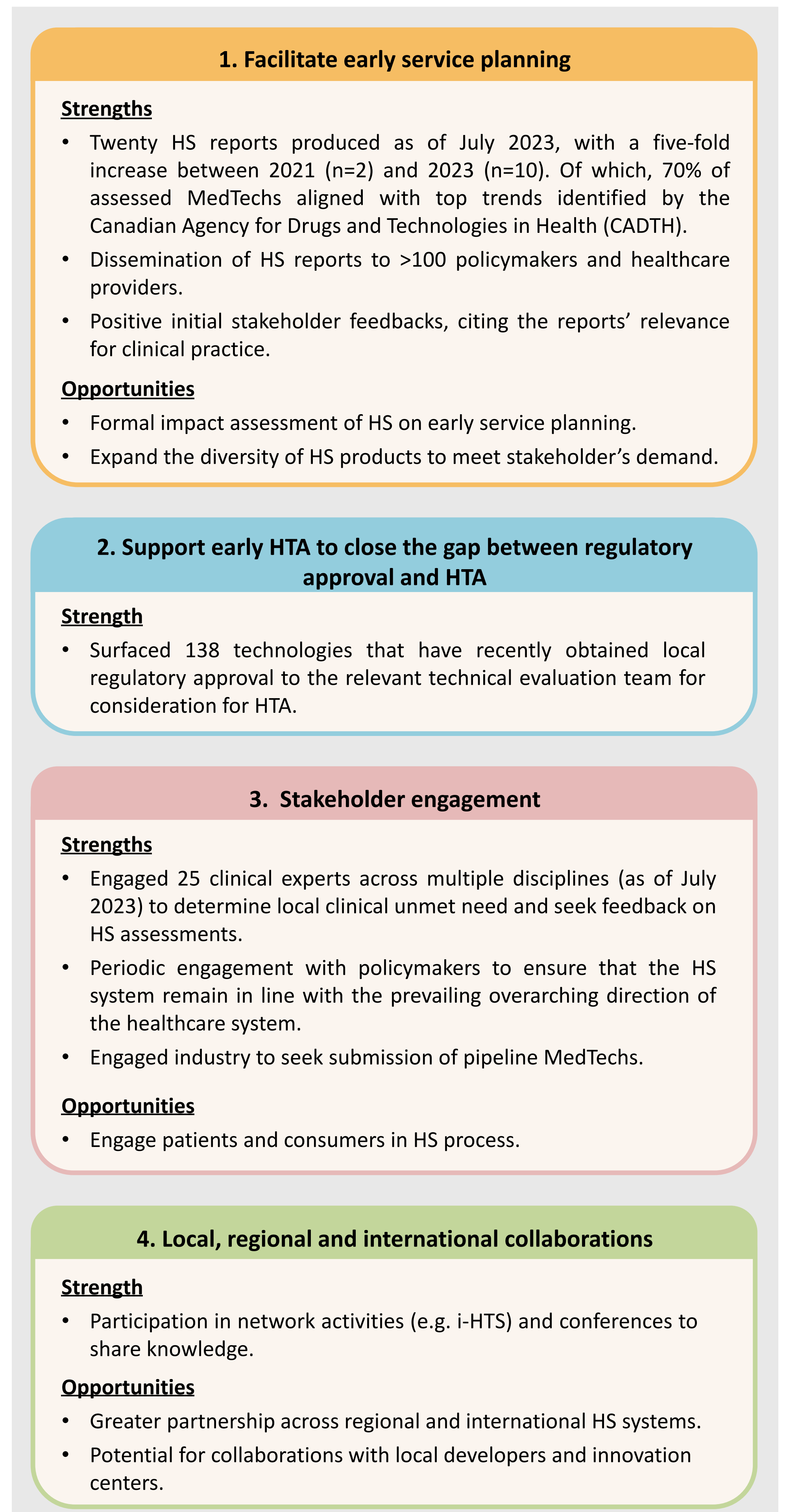


Figure 2: Key areas of HS activities with the corresponding strengths and opportunities identified

Conclusion

- ACE's HS has made significant progress in its effort to enable service planning for the introduction of new and emerging MedTechs.
- This remains an iterative process with multiple future initiatives.