

UNIT – III ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE (EHTP) 9

Introduction – Health care technology management – Package development: Methodology, Logical framework, Implementation, Information promotion and dissemination – EHTP Justification – EHTP matrix – EHTP advantages – Impact Analysis

Introduction

The EHTP is both a method and a tool that helps improve how health care technology is planned and managed. It is based on the idea that good health care can only happen if all parts of health care technology—like medical equipment, medicines, trained staff, and buildings—are available and well managed.

In recent decades, health care has become more complex as many new, advanced technologies have been introduced. Because of this, there is now a need to create and improve support systems to help manage these technologies properly.

Unfortunately, new health care technologies are being used faster than the support services needed to manage them. Because of this, many medical devices are not working properly or not being used at all, leading to poor management of health care equipment. Because of these problems, health care workers and leaders are now focusing on making better use of the health care systems they already have. They especially want to improve how medical equipment is managed.

It is now very important to choose the right medical equipment and use it well, while staying within the budget and keeping up with new technology. Also, because of globalization and competition, health care providers must make sure they truly meet people's needs in the best possible way.

Finding out the real needs of a health care system and making sure the available medical equipment and technology can support health care delivery are now important parts of health care planning. Making decisions based on solid evidence has also become very important and is now a key part of planning. As part of this, new tools are being developed that can adapt to changes in diseases, as well as changes in the types and availability of medical technologies.

Moving health care technologies from one place to another makes health care planning more complicated. This often leads to problems, especially when countries get medical equipment through donations. One problem is that less-developed countries often cannot use new or advanced medical technologies properly. This is because they may not have enough skilled workers, proper support systems, or money.

While more and more technologies are being made and sold, many health care systems in these countries may not be able to use them well. Because of this, many people now agree that health care technology needs to be better planned and managed throughout its entire life—from when it is bought to when it is no longer used.

HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT (HTM)

- The **goal** of health care technology management (HTM) is to buy medical equipment and use it in the best way to improve people's health in a country.
- In hospitals and clinics, HTM helps ensure that safe, cost-effective, and appropriate equipment is always available to give good care to patients.
- HTM involves many different areas of work, and if done well, it can greatly improve health outcomes.
- However, to be successful, it must also consider political, organizational, financial, cultural, ethical, and legal issues.

Although HTM has been studied, most research and strategies come from rich, industrialized countries. These plans often assume that there are plenty of trained workers, money, and good systems already in place—which may not be true in less-developed countries.

In many developing countries, there has been very little research on HTM. Even when some experience and knowledge exist, it is often not shared or used well. Often, researchers and decision-makers do not work together, or they are not connected at all. This problem exists in all countries, but it causes more serious issues in poorer nations. Also, many countries still depend on limited or random information to make decisions about medical technology.

It is clear that better **HTM is urgently needed to help keep health care systems strong and improve the quality of care.** We need to be able to predict, measure, and understand how well medical technologies work, so we can use them in the best way. To do this, we must understand all the parts of HTM and how they work together, which **can only happen through proper and focused research.**

As health care systems change and improve, it is important to make sure these changes do not cause unexpected problems. Before making any changes, experts study the current situation carefully. They do medical audits and needs assessments to find out what is really needed, so that any reforms (improvements) are effective.

In many countries, the health care situation is very serious, and there is little time to make improvements. Because of this, many decisions are made using only a few studies. There is also very little information on how medical equipment is checked and managed, so changes in this area are based on limited data.

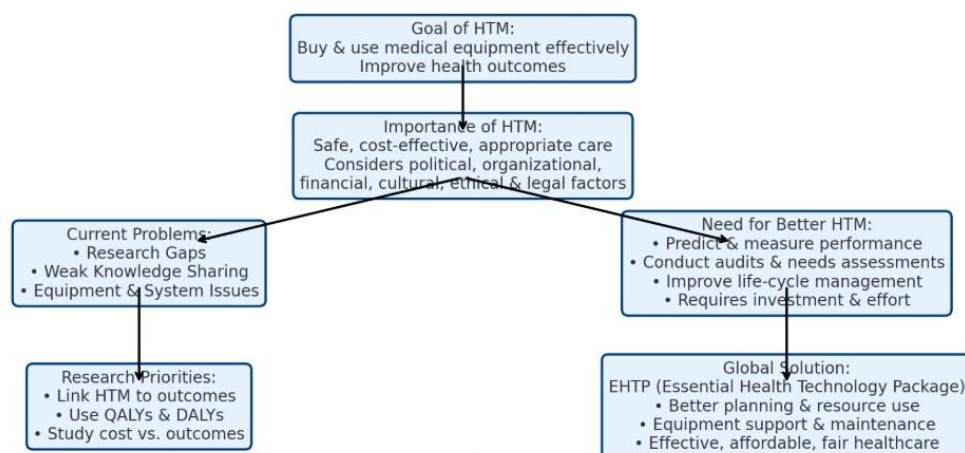
Some studies by the **WHO** show that there are big problems in how health care technology is managed throughout its life cycle.

In the past, the way equipment was bought and managed caused poor accountability for money spent. Most hospitals and clinics don't keep proper records or inventories of their medical equipment. This means important information is missing at local, regional, and national levels. Without this information, it is very hard to monitor or manage the equipment properly, which creates serious problems.

Fixing this issue needs **a lot of investment and effort**, and there is no quick or easy solution. The problems come from many weaknesses in how health care technology is managed, as well as from limits in the health care system itself.

In many countries, there is no clear **plan or policy** for health care technology. Equipment is often bought randomly when money is available, instead of through proper planning. This leads to many devices being unused or broken. In some countries, up to **70% of the equipment is not working**.

These basic problems are very important to understand if we want to improve health care technology management. More research is needed to connect these issues with the overall management process so that better decisions can be made.



. This means we must connect medical technology directly to health results and define the HTM process clearly so decision-makers can plan and manage it as part of health care services.

Many people blame medical technology for increasing health care costs, but there is little solid research to prove this. In fact, very little research has been done to show how technology affects health outcomes. It is still hard for researchers to measure this impact using indicators like QALYs (quality adjusted life years) or DALYs (disability adjusted life years), which show how health conditions affect people's lives.

Because of these problems, there is a need for a worldwide effort to solve them. One solution is to develop a tool called EHTP (Essential Health Technology Package). This tool would help health care planners manage medical technology better, make better use of resources, and improve how equipment is supported and maintained.