

# The Feasibility of Health Technology Assessment in the Ghanaian Health System

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## **Certificate of originality**

I, Rebecca Addo, declare that this thesis is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Economics, in the Business School at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise reference or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information and literature used are indicated in the thesis. This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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## Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background .....	1
1.2	Economic framework .....	5
1.3	Motivation of thesis.....	5
1.4	Aims of and approach to thesis .....	10
1.5	Overview of the Ghanaian health system.....	11
1.5.1	National health policy .....	12
1.5.2	Disease burden and health outcomes .....	13
1.5.3	Health system design .....	14
1.5.4	Priority setting and resource allocation.....	19
1.5.5	Conclusion .....	21
1.6	Overview of thesis structure.....	22
2	HTA: A review of literature on methods, knowledge and attitude of decision makers...24	
2.1	Introduction .....	24
2.2	Definition and types of HTA.....	25
2.3	Uses of HTA.....	26
2.4	Methods underpinning HTA .....	28
2.4.1	Economic evaluation.....	28
2.4.2	Budget impact analysis (BIA).....	42
2.5	HTA practices in selected countries.....	44

2.6	Review of literature on the knowledge and perception of decision makers towards the use of HTA methods/evidence for decision-making .....	53
2.6.1	Characteristics of studies reviewed.....	56
2.6.2	Context and methodological approaches used.....	58
2.6.3	Knowledge and use of HTA methods.....	60
2.6.4	Barriers to the use of HTA methods for decision-making.....	61
2.7	Limitations of the review .....	67
2.8	Conclusion.....	68
3	HTA in Ghana: Perception of health workers about the decision-making processes in the health system.....	70
3.1	Introduction .....	70
3.2	Methods.....	71
3.2.1	Study population .....	71
3.2.2	Sampling frame.....	71
3.2.3	Sampling process and recruitment of study respondents.....	73
3.2.4	Data collection technique and instrument.....	75
3.2.5	Data analysis .....	77
3.3	Results.....	78
3.3.1	Characteristics of study respondents.....	78
3.3.2	Perception of study respondents on the current process of decision-making in the Ghanaian health system .....	80

3.3.3	The association between respondents' awareness of the current process of making decisions in the Ghanaian health system and other study variables .....	81
3.3.4	Factors (perceived and recommended) taken into consideration in the current process of decision-making in the Ghana health system .....	82
3.3.5	Influential stakeholders (perceived and recommended) in the decision-making process of the Ghanaian health system .....	88
3.3.6	Knowledge of and/or training in economic evaluation.....	93
3.4	Discussion .....	95
3.4.1	Strength and limitations of study .....	99
3.5	Conclusion.....	101
4	HTA in Ghana: Decision-making practices, knowledge and attitude of decision makers and researchers.....	103
4.1	Introduction .....	103
4.2	Methods.....	104
4.2.1	Study area.....	104
4.2.2	Data collection process .....	105
4.2.3	Data analysis .....	110
4.3	Results .....	112
4.3.1	The decision-making practices (context) in the Ghanaian health system.....	114
4.3.2	The knowledge of HTA and perception about its potential use.....	129
4.3.3	Perceived barriers to the use of HTA and recommendations to address them	135
4.3.4	Conclusion .....	151

4.4	Discussion .....	151
4.4.1	Current decision-making practices .....	151
4.4.2	Knowledge about and perceptions of HTA .....	154
4.4.3	Perceived barriers to HTA use .....	155
4.4.4	Recommendations to overcome perceived barriers and foster HTA use.....	158
4.4.5	Limitations of this study .....	160
4.5	Conclusion.....	161
5	HTA in Ghana: Current technical capacity.....	163
5.1	Introduction .....	163
5.2	Methods.....	164
5.2.1	Literature search.....	164
5.2.2	Review process .....	165
5.2.3	Data extraction and analysis .....	168
5.3	Results.....	171
5.3.1	Study characteristics .....	171
5.3.2	Scope and quantity of studies .....	177
5.3.3	Quality of studies .....	177
5.3.4	Usefulness of economic evaluation findings for decision-making.....	185
5.3.5	Labour and data capacity for HTA in Ghana.....	185
5.4	Discussion .....	187
5.4.1	Scope and quantity of studies .....	187



5.4.2	Quality of studies and the usefulness of their findings for decision-making...	189
5.4.3	Labour and data capacity for HTA in Ghana.....	194
5.4.4	Limitations of the review .....	194
5.5	Conclusion.....	196
6	HTA in Ghana: Justification for case study and identification of data.....	198
6.1	Introduction .....	198
6.2	Choice of case study.....	199
6.2.1	Rationale for selecting a condition for the case study .....	199
6.2.2	Justification for the health technology chosen to be appraised for the treatment of breast cancer.....	201
6.3	Summary of literature on economic evaluation studies on tamoxifen .....	206
6.4	Grounds for conducting a new economic evaluation for use in HTA – transferability of economic evaluation results to the Ghanaian setting.....	213
6.5	Identification of data for model.....	215
6.5.1	Clinical efficacy data .....	215
6.5.2	Outcome measure.....	218
6.5.3	Death rates .....	224
6.5.4	Data for resource use and costs.....	224
6.6	Conclusion.....	226
7	HTA in Ghana: Economic evaluation of tamoxifen for the hormonal treatment of early breast cancer among pre- and peri-menopausal women .....	228
7.1	Introduction .....	228

7.2	Methods.....	229
7.2.1	Structure and characteristics of the model.....	229
7.2.2	Additional assumptions used in the early breast cancer model.....	233
7.2.3	Model inputs.....	235
7.2.4	Discounting.....	247
7.2.5	Sensitivity analysis.....	248
7.3	Results.....	259
7.3.1	Base case deterministic results.....	259
7.3.2	Sensitivity analysis.....	261
7.4	Discussion.....	273
7.4.1	Summary of major findings.....	273
7.4.2	Comparison with other published economic evaluations.....	275
7.4.3	Strengths of the evaluation.....	276
7.4.4	Key limitations of the evaluation.....	277
7.4.5	Key issues with translation of data to the Ghanaian context for economic evaluation and its implications on HTA conduct in Ghana.....	280
7.5	Conclusion.....	282
8	HTA in Ghana: Economic evaluation of tamoxifen for the hormonal treatment of advanced breast cancer in pre- and peri-menopausal women.....	284
8.1	Introduction.....	284
8.2	Methods.....	285
8.2.1	Structure of the model.....	286

8.2.2	Additional assumptions used in the advanced breast cancer model .....	289
8.2.3	Model inputs .....	289
8.2.4	Sensitivity analysis.....	300
8.3	Results .....	305
8.3.1	Base case deterministic results.....	305
8.3.2	Sensitivity analysis.....	307
8.4	Discussion .....	315
8.4.1	Summary of major findings .....	315
8.4.2	Comparison with Yang et al. 2010 .....	316
8.4.3	Strength of the evaluation .....	317
8.4.4	Key limitations of the evaluation.....	318
8.4.5	Key issues with translation of data to the Ghanaian context for economic evaluation and its implications on HTA conduct in Ghana .....	319
8.5	Conclusion.....	322
9	HTA in Ghana: Budget impact analysis of tamoxifen for the hormonal treatment of breast cancer among pre- and peri-menopausal women.....	323
9.1	Introduction .....	323
9.2	Methods.....	323
9.2.1	Epidemiology.....	324
9.2.2	Uptake/Utilisation of tamoxifen .....	326
9.2.3	Summary of input data and their sources.....	328
9.2.4	Analytical approach .....	329

9.2.5	Sensitivity analysis.....	334
9.3	Results .....	336
9.3.1	Base case results .....	336
9.3.2	Sensitivity analysis.....	340
9.4	Discussion .....	347
9.5	Conclusion.....	350
10	Discussion.....	352
10.1	Introduction .....	352
10.2	Key messages .....	353
10.3	Limitations and challenges .....	357
10.4	Research on HTA in developing countries.....	359
10.5	Policy implications .....	362
10.5.1	Acceptance of HTA .....	362
10.5.2	Conduct of HTA .....	363
10.5.3	Alternatives to conducting a full HTA.....	374
10.6	Contributions of thesis to existing knowledge .....	375
10.7	Future research .....	378
10.8	Concluding remarks.....	381
11	Appendices.....	382
11.1	Appendix 1: The Ghanaian health system (additional information) .....	382
11.1.1	Composition of the NHIS benefit package and coverage.....	382

11.1.2	Resources available for use in the health system.....	382
11.1.3	Service delivery in the Ghanaian health system - Composition and levels .....	384
11.1.4	Formula used in allocating resources at the national level .....	385
11.1.5	Selection of benefits package under the NHIS .....	386
11.2	Appendix 2: Data collection methods and instruments .....	390
11.2.1	Document 1: Consent form and Information Sheet – quantitative survey.....	390
11.2.2	Document 2: Questionnaire – quantitative survey.....	394
11.2.3	Document 3: Consent forms and information sheets – qualitative interviews	400
11.2.4	Document 4: Summary of subject area for interviewees .....	404
11.2.5	Document 5: Interview guide.....	406
11.3	Appendix 3: HTA in Ghana: Perception of clinical health workers about the current decision-making process .....	411
11.4	Appendix 4: HTA in Ghana: The current technical capacity .....	412
11.5	Appendix 5: HTA in Ghana: Justification for case study and identification of data	414
11.5.1	Clinical management algorithm for the treatment of breast cancer in Ghana .	414
11.5.2	Systematic review of economic evaluation studies on tamoxifen for the adjuvant treatment of breast cancer .....	416
11.6	Appendix 6: HTA in Ghana: Economic evaluation of tamoxifen for the hormonal treatment of early and advanced breast cancers among pre- and peri-menopausal women	432

11.7	Appendix 7: HTA in Ghana: Budget impact analysis of tamoxifen for the hormonal treatment of early and advanced breast cancers among pre- and peri-menopausal women	437
12	References.....	440

## List of Tables

Table 1-1: Health Status Indicators of Ghana.....	14
Table 1-2: Criteria for resource allocation in the Ghanaian health system.....	20
Table 2-1: Uses of HTA.....	28
Table 2-2: Summary of HTA processes in selected countries.....	49
Table 2-3: Characteristics of studies included in the systematic review .....	57
Table 2-4: Distribution of barriers to the use of HTA methods reported by respondents/interviewees of studies reviewed .....	62
Table 3-1: Type and number of health workers and sample allocation.....	74
Table 3-2: Characteristics of Study Respondents .....	79
Table 3-3: 3-point Likert scale ratings of the perception of clinical decision makers about the current process of decision-making in the Ghanaian health system .....	81
Table 3-4: Association between respondents' perceived awareness of the current process of decision-making in the Ghanaian health system and their characteristics.....	82
Table 3-5: The relative importance index and rankings of factors (perceived and recommended) for decision-making .....	83
Table 3-6: The relative importance index and rankings of stakeholders perceived and recommended to have influence in decision-making in the Ghanaian health system. ....	89
Table 3-7: Association between knowledge or training in economic evaluation and primary discipline and current position of respondents.....	95
Table 4-1 : Sampling frame .....	106
Table 4-2: Phases of thematic analysis .....	111
Table 4-3: Distribution of interviewees .....	113
Table 5-1: Characteristics of economic evaluation studies in Ghana .....	173
Table 5-2: The quality scores of studies reviewed.....	179

Table 6-1: Comparison of the characteristics of breast cancer in women between developed countries, developing countries and Ghana .....	200
Table 6-2: Some Characteristics of studies included for qualitative review .....	208
Table 6-3: Summary of health states used by studies reviewed .....	211
Table 6-4: Summary of characteristics RCTs with full texts accessible that had tamoxifen as one comparator but the alternative not intervention of interest .....	218
Table 6-5: Summary identification of utility weights for health states in breast cancer .....	221
Table 6-6: Regression models for early breast cancer .....	222
Table 6-7: Regression models for advanced breast cancer .....	222
Table 6-8: Disutility weights for adverse events included in the model.....	224
Table 6-9: Annual age specific mortality rate for females in Ghana.....	224
Table 7-1: Summary of model characteristics .....	229
Table 7-2: Description of the health states for breast cancer.....	232
Table 7-3: Transitions in the model.....	233
Table 7-4: Comparison between the targeted Ghanaian population and those from the meta-analysis.....	237
Table 7-5: Transition probabilities used for the model.....	238
Table 7-6: Utility weight values derived for the health state in early breast cancer.....	240
Table 7-7: Comparison of utility weight values for health states in breast cancer .....	241
Table 7-8: Derivation of cost due to no recurrence state .....	243
Table 7-9: Estimation of costs due to contralateral breast cancer .....	244
Table 7-10 : Estimation of costs due to loco-regional and distant recurrence states .....	245
Table 7-11: Estimation of costs due to recurrence state (all types of recurrence).....	246
Table 7-12: Estimated costs for health states, adverse events and hormonal drugs .....	246
Table 7-13: Summary of translational issues addressed and their uses in the model .....	247



Table 7-14: Parameter ranges of used in the univariate sensitivity analysis .....	250
Table 7-15: DALYs averted per health state .....	256
Table 7-16 : Parametric distributions used for PSA in the early breast cancer model .....	258
Table 7-17: Model (early breast cancer) inputs for PSA .....	259
Table 7-18: Incremental cost effectiveness ratio (ICER) for base case model.....	261
Table 7-19: ICERs for univariate sensitivity analysis .....	263
Table 7-20: ICERs for multivariate sensitivity analysis .....	265
Table 7-21: ICER for subgroup analysis .....	266
Table 7-22: ICER estimated from the societal perspective .....	266
Table 7-23: ICER using the patented and current market price of tamoxifen.....	267
Table 7-24: ICER estimated using transition probabilities for postmenopausal women.....	267
Table 7-25: ICER estimated from a five-state model that tests the structural uncertainty of the base case model.....	268
Table 7-26: ICER for 10 years tamoxifen therapy.....	269
Table 7-27 : Comparison of ICERs using QALYs and Life Years Gained as health outcome .....	270
Table 7-28: Incremental cost effectiveness ratio (ICER) using DALYs as health outcome .	270
Table 7-29: ICER for noncompliance to tamoxifen regimen .....	271
Table 7-30: Deterministic versus probabilistic ICER - early breast cancer model.....	273
Table 8-1: Summary of model characteristics .....	285
Table 8-2: Possible transitions in the advanced breast cancer model .....	288
Table 8-3: Summary of studies reporting the efficacy of tamoxifen for the adjuvant treatment of advanced breast cancer .....	290
Table 8-4: Comparison between the two main sources of efficacy data: RCT and Cohort study .....	291

Table 8-5: Comparison between target population and population efficacy data from from studies being used .....	291
Table 8-6: Monthly transition probabilities for advanced breast cancer model .....	294
Table 8-7 : Utility weights estimated for the health states used in the advanced breast cancer model.....	295
Table 8-8: Estimation of costs due to progression-free state .....	297
Table 8-9: Estimation of costs of progression state .....	298
Table 8-10: Summary of costs used in the advanced breast cancer model.....	299
Table 8-11: Summary of translational issues addressed and their uses in the model .....	299
Table 8-12: Ranges of parameters used in the univariate sensitivity analysis.....	301
Table 8-13: DALYs averted per health state .....	303
Table 8-14: Parametric distributions used for PSA in the advanced breast cancer model ....	303
Table 8-15: Model (advanced breast cancer) inputs for PSA .....	304
Table 8-16 : Incremental cost effectiveness ratio for base case model.....	307
Table 8-17: ICERS for univariate sensitivity analysis of advanced breast cancer model .....	308
Table 8-18: Incremental cost effectiveness ratio derived from health system's perspective .	310
Table 8-19: ICER using the patented and market price of tamoxifen .....	310
Table 8-20: ICER estimated using transition probabilities derived from cohort study .....	312
Table 8-21: Comparison of ICERS using QALYs and life years saved as health outcome..	312
Table 8-22: Incremental cost effectiveness ratio using DALYs averted as health outcome .	313
Table 8-23: ICER for noncompliance to tamoxifen treatment regimen .....	313
Table 8-24: Deterministic versus probabilistic ICERs for – advanced breast cancer model.	315
Table 9-1: Summary of input parameters and their data sources.....	329
Table 9-2: List of assumptions underpinning the BIA.....	330

Table 9-3: Trend in the foreign exchange rates between the GHC and other currencies (USD and AUD) from 2015 to end of 2017 .....	332
Table 9-4: Parameter ranges used for the univariate analysis – BIA.....	334
Table 9-5: Number of pre and peri-menopausal women predicted to use tamoxifen.....	336
Table 9-6: Cost of tamoxifen usage per woman per year .....	337
Table 9-7: Net cost of tamoxifen usage according to stage of breast cancer.....	338
Table 9-8: Net total cost of tamoxifen for breast cancer .....	340
Table 9-9: Number of pre- and peri-menopausal women predicted to use tamoxifen – GLOBOCAN prevalence estimate.....	342
Table 9-10: Results of selected univariate sensitivity analysis of base case net cost of tamoxifen to the NHIS .....	342
Table 9-11: Net cost of tamoxifen when costs due productivity loss associated with caregiving is included.....	346
Table 11-1: Composition of the NHIS of Ghana .....	382
Table 11-2: Organisation of services in Ghana.....	384
Table 11-3: Formula for allocating resources .....	385
Table 11-4: Consolidated Health Economics Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) .	412
Table 11-5: Summary of studies identified in the search for economic evaluation studies conducted on tamoxifen for breast cancer treatment .....	416
Table 11-6: Summary of economic evaluations on tamoxifen identified in the literature – 1 .....	417
Table 11-7: Summary of economic evaluations on tamoxifen identified in the literature – 2 .....	418
Table 11-8: Key model inputs and their sources – systematic review of economic evaluation studies on tamoxifen .....	420

Table 11-9: Estimation of resource use and costs – studies reviewed on economic evaluation of tamoxifen.....	427
Table 11-10: CHEERS statement .....	432
Table 11-11: Variables used in estimating DALYs averted .....	435
Table 11-12: Estimating efficacy values for advanced breast cancer model.....	436
Table 11-13: Univariate and scenario sensitivity analysis for BIA .....	437

## List of Figures

Figure 1-1: Approach to thesis.....	11
Figure 1-2: The Ghana health system model/design.....	15
Figure 2-1: Types of HTA .....	26
Figure 2-2: Differences between DALYs and QALYs.....	38
Figure 2-3: Timelines for the establishment of HTA agencies.....	46
Figure 2-4: PRISMA chart illustrating the identification of studies included in the review ...	55
Figure 2-5: Distribution of publications among developed and developing countries.....	58
Figure 3-1: Perceived and recommended factors for consideration in decision-making of the Ghanaian health system .....	84
Figure 3-2: Perceived factors used for decision-making stratified by the different categories of health workers.....	85
Figure 3-3: Perceived factors used for decision-making stratified by the levels of care respondents' work in the health system .....	86
Figure 3-4: Factors recommended for decision-making stratified by the different categories of health workers.....	87
Figure 3-5: Factors recommended for decision-making stratified by level of care respondents work in the health system .....	88
Figure 3-6: Stakeholders (perceived and recommended) influencing the current decision-making process in the Ghana health system .....	89
Figure 3-7: Differences in the perception of different categories of health workers for stakeholders with influence on the decision-making process .....	90
Figure 3-8: Perception of health workers at different levels of care about stakeholders with influence on the decision-making process .....	91

Figure 3-9: Differences in the recommendations of different categories of health workers for stakeholders to have influence on the decision-making process .....	92
Figure 3-10: Differences in the recommendations of respondents working at different levels of care for stakeholders to have influence on the decision-making process .....	93
Figure 3-11: Respondents knowledge of and/or training in economic evaluation .....	94
Figure 4-1: Factors currently considered by Ghanaian decision makers for decision-making .....	114
Figure 4-2: Perceived barriers to the use of HTA and recommendations for addressing theme .....	135
Figure 5-1: PRISMA chart illustrating the different phases of the systematic review .....	168
Figure 5-2: Distribution of publications per year .....	172
Figure 5-3: The number of studies that satisfied each criterion of the CHEERS checklist...	178
Figure 5-4: The roles played by local persons in reviewed studies .....	186
Figure 6-1: Hormonal treatment of breast cancer in Ghana .....	202
Figure 6-2: Summary of process used to identify and select studies to inform the clinical efficacy of tamoxifen .....	217
Figure 7-1: Proportions of Ghanaian pre- and peri-menopausal women with breast cancer according to stage of disease.....	228
Figure 7-2: Markov transition states .....	231
Figure 7-3: Economic model for the adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer in pre- and peri-menopausal women.....	232
Figure 7-4: Model structure for sensitivity analysis (developed in TreeAge).....	253
Figure 7-5: Markov trace for the model.....	260
Figure 7-6: Tornado diagram for univariate sensitivity analysis of individual parameters...	263
Figure 7-7: Cost effectiveness acceptability curve for the early breast cancer model.....	272

Figure 7-8: Scatter plot of ICER for the early breast cancer model .....	273
Figure 8-1: Proportions of Ghanaian pre- and peri-menopausal women with breast cancer according to stage of disease.....	285
Figure 8-2: Markov transition states .....	287
Figure 8-3: Economic model for the adjuvant treatment of advanced breast cancer in pre- and peri-menopausal women .....	288
Figure 8-4: Markov trace for advanced breast cancer model .....	306
Figure 8-5: Tornado diagram for univariate sensitivity analysis of individual parameters...308	
Figure 8-6: Markov trace when transition probabilities from cohort study alone was used..311	
Figure 8-7: Cost effectiveness acceptability curve for the advanced breast cancer model ...314	
Figure 8-8: Scatter plot for the ICER of the advanced breast cancer model .....	315
Figure 9-1: Analytical framework used to derive the target population for the BIA .....	327
Figure 9-2: Tornado diagram presenting the results of a univariate sensitivity analysis of selected study parameters .....	341
Figure 9-3: Average annual net cost of tamoxifen to the NHIS when insurance coverage was varied.....	344
Figure 9-4: Comparison of current NHIS reimbursement price with the market price for tamoxifen when insurance coverage is varied .....	345
Figure 9-5: Average annual net cost of tamoxifen to the NHIS when proportions of breast cancer stage on diagnosis is varied .....	346
Figure 10-1: Conceptual framework for assessing the feasibility of introducing and using HTA in a health system for decision-making. ....	378
Figure 11-1: Total Expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP in Ghana.....	383
Figure 11-2: Health Expenditure/Spending Trends .....	383

Figure 11-3: The perceptions of clinical decision makers about the current decision-making process in the Ghanaian health system .....411

Figure 11-4: Clinical management algorithm for the treatment of breast cancer in Ghana ..415



## Glossary

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
5YPOW	5 year Program of work
AES	Adverse events
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANC	Antenatal Care
AUD	Australian Dollars
BIA	Budget Impact Analysis
CET	Cost Effectiveness Threshold
CEAC	Cost Effectiveness Acceptability Curve
CHEC	Consensus on Health Economics Criteria
CHEERS	Consolidated Health Economics Evaluation Reporting Standards
CHPS	Community based Health Planning and Services
CHRPE	Committee on Human Research Publication and Ethics
DALY	Disability Adjusted Life Year
DCE	Discrete choice experiment
DHD	District Health Director or District health Directorate
DHIMS	District Health Information Management System
DVT	Deep Vein Thrombosis
EBCTCG	Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group
EQ-5D	EuroQol 5 dimension scale
ER	Oestrogen receptor
EuroScan	The international information network on new and emerging health technologies
GBD	Global Burden of Disease
GCO	Global Cancer Observatory
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
G-DRG	Ghana Diagnostic Related Groupings
GHC	Ghana Cedis
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GHS-ERB	Ghana Health Service Ethical Review Board
GLOBOCAN	Global Observatory of Cancer
GNDP	Ghana National Drug Program
GNMP	Ghana National Medicines Policy
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HR	Hazard Ratio
HR	Hormone Receptor
HRD	Human Resource Database
HREC	Human Research Ethics Committee
HTA	Health Technology Assessment
HTAi	Health Technology Assessment International
IC	Incremental Cost
ICER	Incremental Cost Effectiveness Ratio
iDSi	International Decision Support Initiative
IHR	Instantaneous hazard rate
INAHTA	International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment
IPDD	Integrated Personnel and Payroll Database

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ISPOR	International Society of Pharmacoeconomic Outcome and Research
KATH	Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
LLIN	Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets
MCDA	Multi-criteria decision analysis
mg	Milligram
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSD	Musculoskeletal disorders
MST	Median survival time
MTHS	Medium Term Health Strategy
NCCN	National Comprehensive Cancer Network
NHIA	National Health Insurance Authority
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
OPD	Outpatient Department
PASC	PICO advisory sub-committee
PE	Pulmonary embolism
PICO	Population Intervention Comparator and Outcome
PR	Progesterone receptor
PSA	Probability Sensitivity Analysis
PWS	Postmenopausal Women
QALY	Quality Adjusted Life Year
QHES	Quality of Health Economics Study
RCT	Randomised controlled Trial
RR	Relative risk
SERM	Selective oestrogen receptor modulator
SF-6D	Short form 6-dimension scale
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollars
UTS	University of Technology Sydney
VB	Vaginal bleeding
VSL	Value of statistical life
WHA	World health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTP	Willingness to Pay
YLD	Years Lived with Disability
YLL	Years of Live Lost

## **Abstract**

The increasing costs and demands for new health technologies, which is compounded by an increase in production, has resulted in decision makers requiring high quality evidence to prioritise and allocate resources in the health system. Health technology assessment (HTA) provides such evidence and is used worldwide mostly by developed countries. HTA use is not widespread in developing country settings due to the limited human, data and financial resources available to support it. Developing countries like Ghana are planning to introduce HTA with no evidence regarding its feasibility: which systems are available to support it, and which form of HTA is most suitable for the Ghanaian setting. This thesis sought to examine these issues and make recommendations on how Ghana can proceed.

To assess the Ghanaian health system for HTA, quantitative and qualitative methods were used to examine the current decision-making practices from the perspective of national, district and clinical decision makers. Qualitative in-depth interviews were used to assess the knowledge and attitudes of decision makers and researchers about HTA. The technical capacity of Ghana for HTA was assessed using a systematic review of economic evaluation studies in Ghana. Lastly, a case study was conducted using tamoxifen for the hormonal treatment of breast cancer among pre- and peri-menopausal women. The study was designed to assess the applicability and transferability of international data to the Ghanaian context.

The results of the research conducted for this thesis revealed that Ghanaian decision makers were open to a more efficient way of making decisions that considered not only the wellbeing of the patient, but also the economic implications of such decisions, reinforcing the importance of pursuing HTA. However, lack of resources and knowledge on HTA and politico-cultural factors were reported as potential barriers and participants made suggestions to address them. The findings also highlighted the limited human and data capacity available to conduct HTA,

which meant relying on international data. However, these data need to be transformed to be context-specific before they are suitable for use in an economic evaluation.

It was concluded that Ghana will be able to adopt HTA if and when the barriers and challenges reported in this thesis are addressed. However, in the short to medium term, it is recommended that the HTA effort in Ghana focus on appraising generic medicines and unpatented technologies. Findings from these appraisals can guide funding decisions to ensure financial sustainability of the health system.