# DEVELOPMENT OF THE BENEFITS PACKAGE

FOR THE UNIVERSAL COVERAGE SCHEME



## HEALTH BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Is a set of health services or products covered by a health insurance scheme
- Provide an explicit scope of health services and products provided to the beneficiaries
- Should be designed based on the feasibility and local context and cover essentail health services and products

## BENEFITS PACKAGES

## FOR UNIVERSAL COVERAGE SCHEME (UCS) BENEFICIARIES

- 1) PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS PACKAGE:
  National List of Essential Medicines
- 2) NON-PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS PACKAGE: Benefits package under UCS

#### **NEGATIVE LIST: SERVICES NOT COVERED UNDER UCS**



#### SERVICES EXCEEDING BASIC NECESSITY

- 1) Infertility services
- 2) Cosmetic surgery
- 3) Services that are still in research
- Over diagnosis or treatment without medical indication

#### SERVICES COVERED BY OTHER SPECIFIC SOURCE OF BUDGET

- Services for injuries from vehicle accidents under the Protection for Motor Vehicle Accident Victims
- Treatment for drug addicts (except for opium and derivatives addicts who are willing to be treated with methadone)

#### **OTHER SERVICES**

- 1) The same disease
  with more than 180-day
  hospitalizations (except in
  unavoidable cases due to
  complications or medical
  indications)
- 2) Organ transplantation
  (except kidney transplants,
  liver transplants in those
  younger than 18 years
  with biliary atresia,
  heart transplants, and
  hematopoietic stem cell
  transplants)

### CORE PRINCIPLES

OF THAI BENEFITS PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT

**SYSTEMATIC** 

**TRANSPARENT** 

EVIDENCE-INFORMED

**PARTICIPATORY** 

# STEPS IN THAILAND'S BENEFITS PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT



Topics are nominated by stakeholders to consider their needs and demand.

The nominated topics will be prioritized and ranked.

Those with high priority will proceed to the next steps.

Interventions in the selected topics will be assessed through studies.

Considering various criteria, decision-making entity decide whether to include the intervention in the benefits package.

## STEP 1 TOPIC NOMINATION

#### 9 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- Policymakers
- Public health academics
- Medical device manufacturers
- Health innovation
- Committee/sub-committee
   and other related working groups

NOMINATE TOPIC THROUGH WEBSITE

http://register.nhso.go.th/ucbp/

Health professionals

- Civic groups
- Patient networks
- Lay citizens

NOMINATE TOPIC THROUGH public hearing forum





- ★ AT LEAST 1 TOPIC ON HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION
- ♣ AT LEAST 1 TOPICS ON EFFECTIVE COVERAGE OR ACCESS TO CARE

## STEP 2 TOPIC SELECTION

#### **EXCLUSION CRITERIA:**



It is about medicines, vaccines, or supplements



It has been nominated without providing supporting evidence on the intervention efficacy and effectiveness



It has been previously considered and no additional information has been provided.

Topics that are not excluded will then be prioritized using the following criteria:

#### **PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA**

- NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED
  BY THE DISEASE OR HEALTH PROBLEM
- 2 SEVERITY OF THE DISEASE OR HEALTH PROBLEM
- 3 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
- VARIATION IN PRACTICE
- 5 IMPACTON HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE
- 6 EQUITY, SOCIAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

THE WORKING GROUP **FORSELECTING TOPICS WILL REVIEW THE SCORING RESULT AND CONSIDER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SELECT 10-12 TOPICS TO PROCEED FURTHER TO NEXT STEP. TOPICS WITH A HIGHER SCORE WILL BE GIVEN** 

A HIGHER PRIORITY.



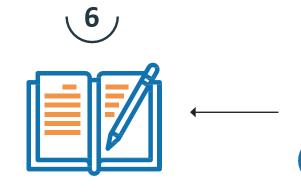
## STEP 3 ASSESSMENT

- Selected topics will be assigned to groups of researchers in universities, IHPP or HITAP, to conduct studies as required by the Thai HTA guidelines.
- The HTA process in Thailand is also designed to be participatory. Stakeholders can provide inputs at different stages of the HTA study.

#### Initial literature review and Proposal development and first stakeholder consultation proposal review by external meeting to determine the reviewers before the study scope of the study starts

STEPS IN THE CONDUCT OF HTA

Presentation of results to the Working Group for Health **Economics** 



Finalization of report and policy recommendations

External review of study report

Second stakeholder consultation meeting for researchers to present preliminary result

The conduct of the study

## STEP 4 DECISION MAKING

#### **INITIAL DECISION**

Sub-committees will consider whether the technology or intervention should be included in the benefits package using the following criteria:

- 1 COST-EFFECTIVENESS
- 2 AVAILABILITY OF CLINICAL PRACTICE
  GUIDELINES
- **3 HEALTH SYSTEM READINESS**
- 4 BUDGET IMPACT ON UCS
- **5** ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

#### **FINAL DECISION**

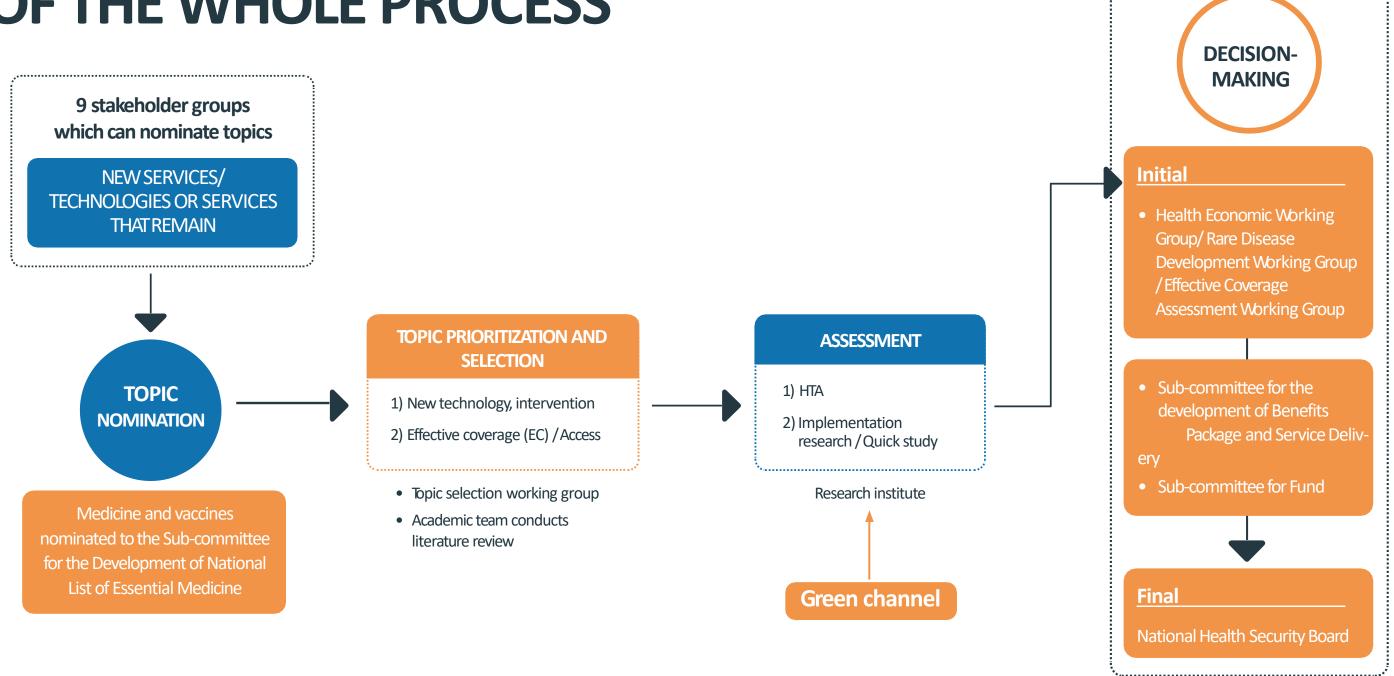
The National Health Security Board will make final decision.

#### **ADDRESSING RARE DISEASES**

Technologies or services for rare diseases are likely to be advanced and expensive and less likely to be cost-effective. Rule of rescue will be considered



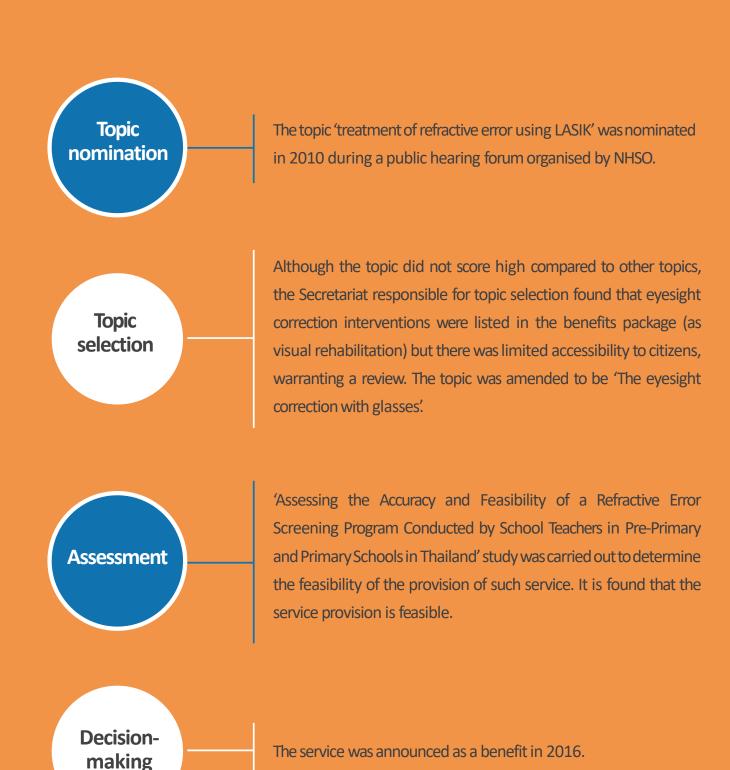
### SUMMARY OF THE WHOLE PROCESS

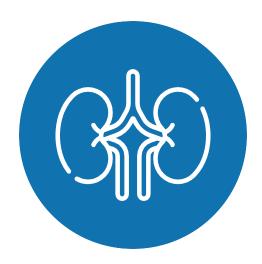




## THE PROCESS IN ACTION:

THE CASE OF REFRACTIVE ERROR SCREENING AND GLASSES PROVISION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN





# IT IS MORE THAN COST AND EFFICIENCY THAT MATTERS:

## THE CASE OF RENAL REPLACEMENT THERAPY

#### SUPPORTING CONSIDERATION

Decision to include renal replacement therapy due to social and ethical concerns

## PD-FIRST POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

#### **EVIDENCE SUPPORT**

An HTA study found dialysis was not cost-effective, but a PD-first policy was more cost-effective than an HD-first policy.

#### SYSTEM SUPPORT

A system to deliver dialysate by Thailand Post to patients to perform dialysis at home was designed.

PD: peritoneal dialysis HD: hemodialysis

- Rule of rescue will be considered for high-cost interventions which are less likely to be cost-effective.
- A high-cost intervention may be included if it is life-saving with no alternatives.
- The decision to include renal replacement therapy is HTA-informed, taking evidence on cost-effectiveness, budget impact and ethical issues into account.

## STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

# OF THE BENEFITS PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN THAILAND

#### **STRENGTHS**

- 1) It is systematic with clear and explicit steps.
- 2) It is transparent with the participation of stakeholder groups at different stages of the process.
- 3) It is informed by evidence throughout the process, from selecting the topics based on information available in literature, which is peer-reviewed in most cases, to decision-making which is informed by the HTA study conducted for the purpose.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

- 1) There is variation in the level of understanding of topics across different groups of stakeholders. This results in nominated topics being vague, for example.
- 2) Human resources to conduct HTA are limited. Hence limited number of topics that can be assessed.

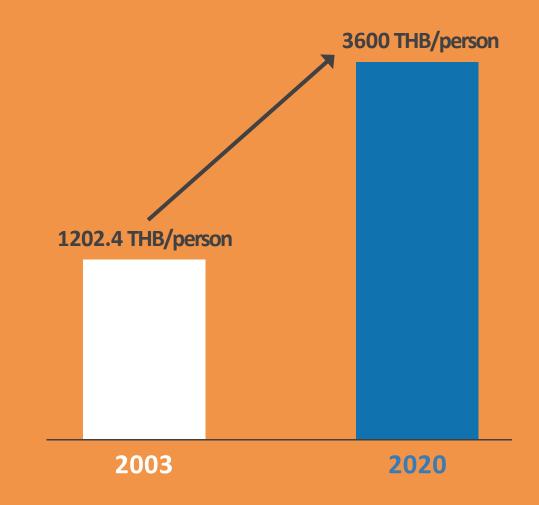
# PRINCIPLES IN BUDGETING FOR BENEFITS PACKAGE IN THAILAND

## Main services covered by this budget include:

- Outpatient services
- Inpatient services
- Health promotion and disease prevention services
- Rehabilitation services
- Traditional Thai medicine services.

### To cover broader benefits, the capitation rate continuously increases

In 2020, the capitation budget was approximately 3 times the rate in the first year of UCS to cover broader benefits. The total amount provided is THB 174 billion for 48.3 million people.



Capitation rate in 2003 vs 2020

