



Public accountability of independent regulatory agencies in healthcare

Jolien van de Sande
PhD Candidate
vandesande@eshpm.eur.nl

Erasmus School of
Health Policy
& Management



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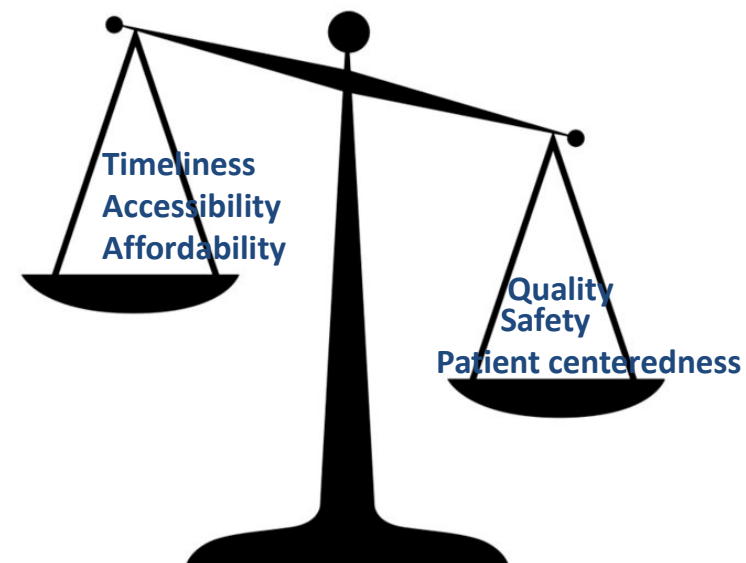
Public accountability of IRAs

- Why is public accountability of IRAs important?
- Why is it particularly important for IRAs in healthcare?
- What are possible forms of public accountability?



Why is it particularly important for IRAs in healthcare?

- Procedural tasks  Substantive tasks
- HTA agencies, inspectorates, other regulators





A substantive role of IRAs has public value

- IRAs can credibly commit to dealing with complex policy issues
- IRAs can develop technical expertise
- IRAs can influence stakeholders in the healthcare field



Three forms of public accountability



Vertical
accountability



Horizontal
accountability



Public participation



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Three discourses: distinct language

Vertical
accountability

- Arm's length
- Political principal
- Upwards accountability
- Hierarchical accountability
- Holding accountable
- Information asymmetry
- Regime
- Agency loss
- Agent

Horizontal
accountability

- Network
- Voluntary
- Multi-level
- Accountability relations
- Shadow of hierarchy
- Forum paralysis
- Political actors
- Multi-actor
- Dynamic

Public participation

- Tokenism
- Citizen panel
- Citizen forum
- Deliberation
- Participation ladder
- Consumers
- Citizens
- The public
- Users



Three discourses: distinct assumptions

Vertical accountability

- Impossibility transferring democratic legitimacy
- Government can control agency
- Citizens can hold politicians accountable

Horizontal accountability

- Government is incapable of control
- Government wants to avoid risk
- Voluntary roles
- Interest in giving account

Public participation

- Public value > sum value stakeholders
- The answer for democracy
- Selection and design
- Impact

Conclusions / policy recommendations

- Consider the underlying assumptions of the three accountability forms
- Pay attention to how the public is represented
- Critically consider patient participation initiatives