Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is one approach countries can take to prioritise health services in a systematic and transparent way. iDSI has traced the origins of HTA in China, from its introduction to the present day where evidence-informed processes are being implemented to guide government healthcare spending decisions – a key step in helping China to achieve Universal Health Coverage for its 1.3 billion citizens.

**Professor Chen Jie introduces basic concepts of HTA to China**
Professor Chen led a team from the Fudan University in Shanghai to conduct a series of HTA training workshops; advocating the application of HTA at meetings in China and across the globe and sharing experiences and lessons learned along the way.

**NICE International introduced to China through projects of the Rural Health Reform**
NICE International, the international division of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, which provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care in the UK, worked with the CNHDRC to strengthen the evidential base of their clinical pathways and pilot studies. Drawing on expertise in HTA and clinical guidelines, NICE International’s collaboration with the CNHDRC focused on capacity-building; multi-stakeholder engagement; and changes to IT infrastructure and payment reform within pilot hospitals.

**A dedicated HTA division is set up at the China National Health Development Research Center**
The creation of a HTA division, based at the China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC), a national think-tank providing technical consultancy to health policy-makers, boosted the role of HTA in supporting decision-making in health systems.

**CNHDRC and China’s Ministry of Health holds their first HTA seminar for policy makers**
The seminar was attended by the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Chair and members of the HTAi Board. High on the agenda was the CNHDRC’s potential to forge multilateral partnerships with international HTA organisations to strengthen China’s HTA capacity for evidence-based priority setting in health system reform.
First HTA textbook authored by key CNHDRC figures published

Professor Chen and her colleague Dr Yu Dezhi composed a solid theoretical basis for the development of HTA in China, detailing HTA study design and efficient ways to conduct economic, social and ethical analyses.

China Health Technology Assessment Network launched

Following technical support from iDSI, a critical foundation for institutionalising HTA in China, was launched by Ma Xiaowei, vice-minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission. At the launch the vice-minister described HTA as a “necessary precondition” for achieving Healthy China 2030, a government programme to promote the health of China.

Expansion of China Health Technology Assessment Network and Gates funding for CNHDRC

By the network’s second annual meeting, 37 organisations (representing the majority of China’s provinces) including many prominent Chinese universities, research institutes and hospitals, joined under the leadership of the CNHDRC and the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

In the same year the CNHDRC was awarded US$1.5 million from by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Over the course of the 18 month grant, the CNHDRC, in collaboration with iDSI, will develop process guides related to the technology appraisal of medical devices; drugs; procedures; and vaccines in China, focusing on two vaccine evaluations and molecular diagnostics in tuberculosis.

CNHDRC become iDSI core partner and launch of the National Health Commission

iDSI announced the CNHDRC as one of our core partners, emphasising iDSI’s commitment to forge global partnerships to achieve real world health gains. The HTA division is led by Professor Zhao Kun under the overarching leadership of Fu Wei, Head of the CNHDRC.

The National People’s Congress of China endorses the National Health Commission, which replaces the National Health and Family Planning Commission, paving the way for greater use of HTA in China. The National Health Commission will be responsible for formulating national health policies; coordinating and advancing medical and healthcare reform; establishing a national basic medicine system; supervising and administering public health, medicare, health emergencies and family planning services.