Market Access

Grasping the 4 Pillars

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The health-care environment is quite challenging. No matter how much money Canadian governments spend, there is always a cry for more. So, how do you get your product/service noticed in a positive fashion?

Let me ask you a question: Are people and organizations that make reimbursement decisions regulators or customers? I strongly suggest they be treated as customers.

When it comes to market access (public, private and/or hospital), there are four pillars:

- **1.** *Gain* entry into the desired market.
- **2.** *Improve* opportunities in the market.
- **3.** *Defend* the position in the market.
- **4.** *Maximize* the business opportunity the market provides.

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1. Gain

Organizations usually focus their energies on gaining entry into the market. Unfortunately, some decisions made to expedite market entry have a detrimental impact on long-term product opportunities. The key is developing a value story that promotes optimal reimbursement. To do this effectively, customers must be engaged in the process, and the earlier the better.

2. Improve

Despite your best efforts, your product/service doesn't always get the coverage you want. You may have to work on improving guidelines or reimbursement mechanisms.

3. Defend

OK, you've obtained reimbursement, but watch out! The market is dynamic and you have to defend your status from category review and/or competitor attack. Never take reimbursement status for granted.

4. Maximize

We know there are bumps along the way. Your product/service may require a special authorization process in order to take advantage of the available reimbursement opportunity. Do your organization and customers (physicians, patients, *etc.*) understand how these processes work? There is nothing more frustrating than having the health-care professional believe in the clinical benefits, only to lose fulfillment of the sale because of a lack of understanding of the process.

Health care is a complex market. Whether it is a drug, device or procedure, Wyatt Health Management understands how reimbursement works in the public and private markets, the community and the hospitals. Remember, it's not just getting the listing; it's about improving your business prospects and getting the best rate of return possible.