



Bridging the Gap: Understanding and Implementing Gap Analyses

Focus Area Working Group: Medical Strategy and Launch Excellence

Presenters



Leah Williams

Director, Global Medical Education & Communications, Hematology TA **CSL Behring** USA



Jennifer Schwinn

Senior Director, Medical Communications Immunovant USA



Amanda Henkel

Practice Area Lead, Rare Disease MEDISTRAVA (Inizio Medical) Germany

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Medical Affairs Launch Excellence **Guide and Templates**

Best Practices for Medical Affairs



Next webinar in the series "Setting Strategic Objectives" will be in Sept 2023

https://medicalaffairs.org/content-hub/

Educational Objectives

At the end of the session, you will be able to

- Understand how to conduct gap analyses to identify needs or deficiencies within your medical plan
- Identify when gap analyses can be leveraged throughout the Medical Affairs strategic planning process
- Demonstrate how to apply results of gap analyses to effectively address needs



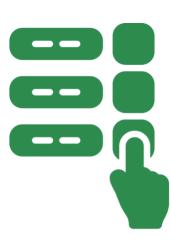
What Is a Gap Analysis?

Leah Williams

Polling Question

Do you regularly perform gap analyses as part of your function in **Medical Affairs?**

- A. Yes, annually
- B. Yes, as needed
- C. Yes, but not often
- D. No, not at all
- E. Not sure



Situational Analysis: Understanding Where We Are Now

Strategy is never developed in a vacuum, so it is important to understand a product in the context of the therapeutic space and available treatment options



Gap Analyses: A Strategic Planning Tool

- Systematic process of comparison
- Identifies deficiencies, needs, or improvements that may be required to reach a goal for a product in a specific therapy area
- Helps to understand current state vs desired state
- Helps determine what steps need to be taken
 - Internal analyses gaps to address
 - External analyses gaps to maximize
- Used in conjunction with other tools, such as SWOT or PEST analyses, as part of strategic planning

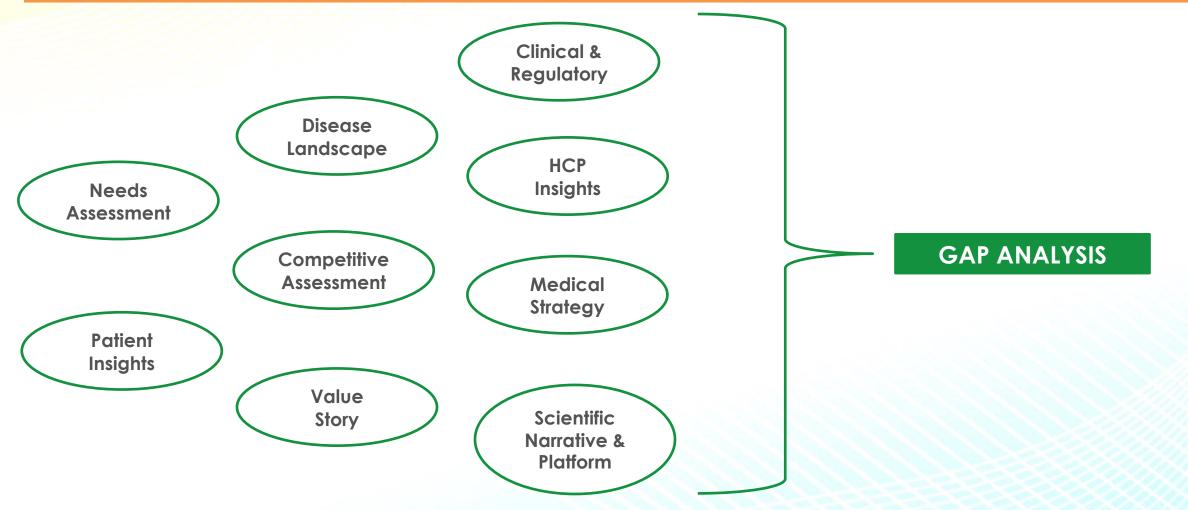
Components of a Gap Analysis



Gaps need to be closed to move from the current situation to the desired situation

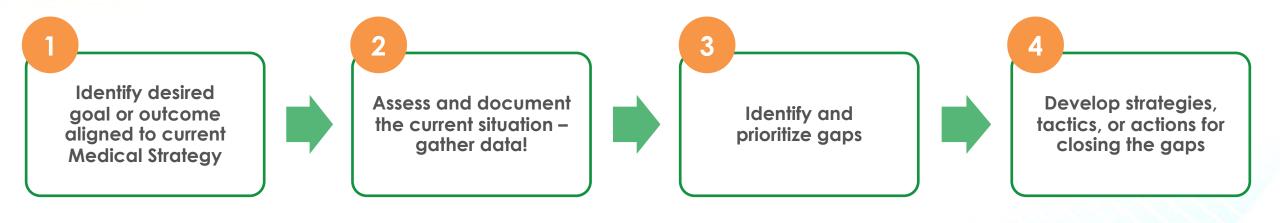
Gap Identification

Gaps in evidence generation, interpretation, communication, and/or education

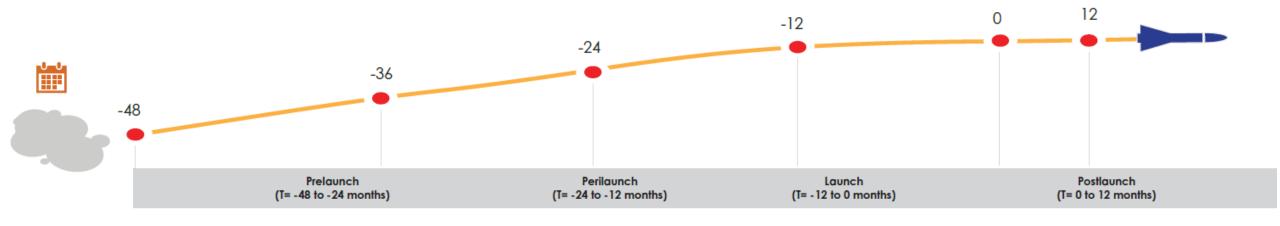


Steps for Gap Analyses

Four Basic Steps in Conducting a Gap Analysis



When Are Gap Analyses Performed?



- ✓ Part of a situational analysis during annual strategic planning (eg. internal analyses prior to strategic objective setting; competitive assessments)
- ✓ Tactical planning when creating annual strategic plan
- ✓ Clinical data gap analyses
- √ Scientific platform and messaging
- ✓ Publication planning
- ✓ Integrated evidence planning
- ✓ Others?



Case Examples: How to Execute Gap Analyses in Strategic Planning

Leah Williams, Jennifer Schwinn, & Amanda Henkel

Minding the Gap: Examples

Example 1: Tactical Planning

Example 2: Publication Planning

Example 3: Integrated Evidence Planning

Minding the Gap: Examples

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Components of a Gap Analysis



Gaps needs to be closed to move from the current situation to the desired situation

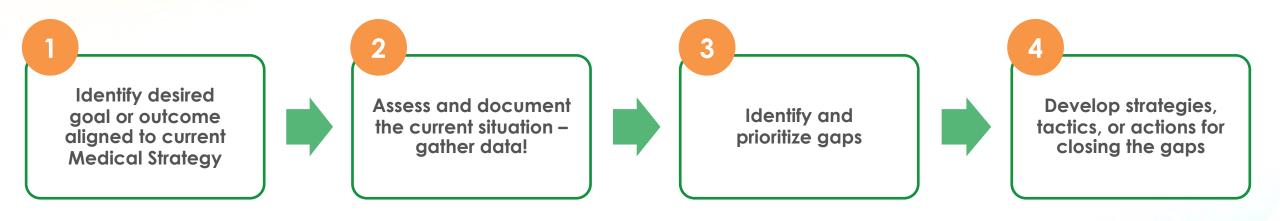
Strategic Planning: Gap Analyses



- Formally identify potential gaps to address with the medical strategy and tactical planning phases
- Helps identify internal gaps in evidence generation, interpretation, communication, and/or education
 - New research questions/ideas
 - Product data or evidence needs
 - Education or communication needs by stakeholder
 - Other items to be addressed in tactical planning

Steps for Gap Analyses

Four Basic Steps in Conducting a Gap Analysis





DESIRED GOAL: Reassess the unmet needs and the potential generation, interpretation, communication, and/or educational gaps in the marketplace to help drive Medical Strategy development and help achieve the product vision

Step 1: Identify Desired Goal

Vision

 A broad overarching goal for a product that is typically used across functions

Medical Objectives

- Concise statements that facilitate moving from the current situation to the desired goals
 - = Strategic Objective

Strategic Medical Drivers

- Concise statements that are granular and support the associated medical objective - Help facilitate translation of strategy into key tactics
 - = Key Drivers, Critical Success Factors

Product Y:

A mAb in a dermatology indication

VISION

[Product Y] provides robust and lasting efficacy for individuals with the [inflammatory skin disease] with the convenience of a new treatment paradigm

Medical Objectives

1. Advance understanding of the disease course, burden, and unmet treatment needs of individuals with [dermatologic condition

2. Communicate additional evidence, beyond the pivotal trial data, on the efficacy of Product Y in comparison to standard of care and current therapies for [dermatologic condition]

3. Partner with medical societies and key dermatologists in the field to advance understanding and update current guidelines on the treatment of [dermatologic condition

Strategic Medical Drivers

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- В. C. D.

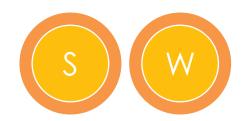
Note If you are not starting from the beginning, look at the objectives you set the previous year – and look for opportunities to improve

Step 2: Assess and Document the Current Situation

Current Situation: Medical SWOT

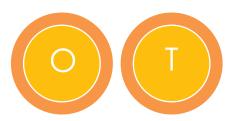
Collaborative and structured approach to understanding where your product stands in the current environment and disease state – identifying both internal and external factors

It is a combination of:



Internal

Strengths and Weaknesses



External

Opportunities and Threats

Example: SWOT Analysis

Product Y:

A mAb in a dermatology indication

Internal:

Product- or Company-Specific

Strengths (+)

- Infrequent dosing (convenience)
- Part of a portfolio of products
- leader in dermatology
- First-in-class novel MoA
- Better efficacy vs standard of care in direct H2H studies
- No unexpected safety

Weaknesses (-)

- Delayed launch
- Not clinically differentiated
- Misperception of safety concern (driven by competitor) messaging)



External:

Market or-**Fnvironment-**Specific

Opportunities (+)

- Large unmet need and an expanding market
- Patient preference for less frequent dosing (helps them forget their disease)
- Patients want improved efficacy from treatment



Threats (-)

- Competitive market that is perception-driven
- Large competitor companies are wellestablished
- Price points are lowering due to biosimilars
- HCPs do not have desire to improve treatment goals (disconnect with patients)

SWOT Guiding Strategy

Output will help guide medical and scientific strategy by answering key questions









Another tool, called a TOWS analysis, is an alternative approach that helps you make connections between each quadrant of the SWOT analysis to inform strategic actions

Step 3: Identify Gaps (Workshop)

Creating a Work Map

Current State	Unmet Need or Desired State	Gap	Action to Fill the Gap (Medical)
Patients want less frequent dosing, but HCPs believe current treatments are adequate	HCPs realize burden of disease on current treatment	 Evidence Generation Gap – limited data on patient preferences Communication/Education Gap – patient preferences and need for more convenient dosing to HCPs 	 Gain patient preference data (ie, improved efficacy, dosing, etc) Provide rationale for need to improve treatment outcomes grounded in patient benefits
Efficacy is not optimal for all patients	HCPs redefine expectations of efficacy for all patients	 Evidence Generation Gap – limited data on patient preferences Communication/Education Gap – patient preferences on optimal efficacy - HCP Communication/Education Gap – guidelines to redefine optimal efficacy in this group of patients 	 Focus communications, both patient and HCP, on greater efficacy with convenient dosing, in line with patient desires Ensure robust differentiation from all competitors (mechanistic and clinical) Work with medical societies and key KOLs to update guideline recommendations based on new MoA and key clinical data
Misperceptions on safety due to competitor messaging	Limited misperceptions on safety concerns	 Evidence Generation and Interpretation Gap – limited published information on novel MoA and reason to believe there would be no off-target effects Communications/Education Gap – limited analyses published on safety beyond clinical trial 	 Pull together current literature on MoA Ensure robust differentiation from all competitors (mechanistic and clinical) Proactively communicate safety in context – answer the questions the competitors are posing and provide more

Collaboration with cross-functional team is critical!

Step 3: Prioritization (Workshop)

- Determine what to tackle
- What to consider
 - Biggest impact
 - Ease of execution
 - Timing restraints
 - Budgetary and resource restraints
- Rank the items of highest priority to guide medical strategy and place all other items into a parking lot for future consideration
 - High, medium, low

Gap Prioritization

- 1. Evidence Generation Gap limited data on patient preferences
- 2. Communication/Education Gap patient preferences and need for more convenient dosing to HCPs
- 1. Communication/Education Gap guidelines to redefine optimal efficacy in this group of patients
- 2. Evidence Generation Gap limited data on patient preferences
- 3. Communication/Education Gap patient preferences on optimal efficacy - HCP
- 1. Communications/Education Gap limited analyses published on safety beyond clinical trial
- 2. Evidence Generation and Interpretation Gap limited published information on novel MoA and reason to believe there would be no off-target effects

Step 4: Develop Strategy, Drivers, Tactics to Close the Gap

VISION

[Product Y] provides robust and lasting efficacy for individuals with [the inflammatory skin disease] with the convenience of a new treatment paradigm

Medical Objectives

- 1. Advance understanding of the disease course, burden, and unmet treatment needs of individuals with [dermatologic condition]
- 2. Communicate additional evidence, beyond the pivotal trial data, on the efficacy of Product Y in comparison to standard of care and current therapies for [dermatologic condition]
- 3. Partner with medical societies and key dermatologists in the field to advance understanding and update current guidelines on the treatment of [dermatologic condition]

Strategic Medical Drivers

- A. Bring together current knowledge of the new MoA and how it is differentiated from current classes of treatment B. Coordinate and publish patient and physician preferences in treatment of [dermatologic condition]
- A. Ensure robust differentiation from all competitors (mechanistic and clinical) through targeted educational programming
- B. Proactively communicate safety of Product Y in the context of standard of care
- A. Complete a KOL mapping and engagement exercise to support goals
- B. Support need for updated guidelines with Medical Societies (X, Y, & Z)

Transition from actions of gap analysis

Strategy versus Tactics



- The WHAT
- The WHY



VS

- THE HOW
- THE WHO

REMINDER: Determine KPIs or Metrics

Determining the Success of the Medical Plan



Outcomes-based metrics are needed to assess the impact of the medical strategic plan objectives



Goal-based metrics evaluate performance of efforts

Analyze quantitative and qualitative metrics against key milestones and deliverables



Determine adjustments needed based on ongoing assessment

Table 1. Example quantitative and qualitative metrics in MA



QUALITATIVE METRIC



QUANTITATIVE

HCP=healthcare professional; KOL=key opinion leader; MSL=medical science liaison.

Minding the Gap: Examples

Example 1: Tactical Planning

Example 2: Publication Planning

Example 3: Integrated Evidence Planning

Gap Analyses in Publication Planning

Purpose of publication gap analyses:

- Identify evidence, education, or publication gaps
- Benchmark current trends in literature and/or competitive data dissemination
- Identify key target audiences and journals

Publication Planning: Gap Analysis Process

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation - gather data!



Identify and prioritize gaps



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

MEDICAL & PUBLICATION **STRATEGY**

What are the strategic objectives for publications based on Medical Strategy and stakeholder needs?

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- What are the key insights from internal and external assessments for publications?
 - Disease
 - Product
 - Competitors
- What are the informational needs of the target audiences?

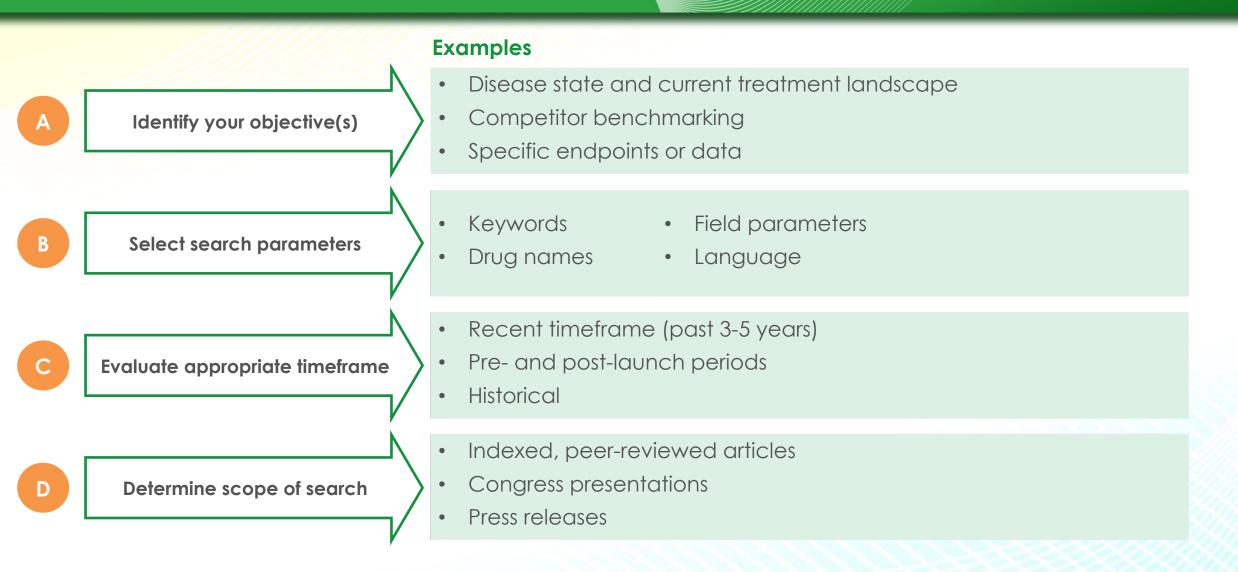
GAP ANALYSIS

What are the priority gaps, key opportunities, and issues to address?

PUBLICATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Do the current strategies need to be refined?
- What publications are needed? At what time? To what audience(s)?

Publication Planning: Literature Search Process



A. Identify Your Objective(s)

Having a clear objective informs subsequent steps

- Disease state and current treatment landscape
 - Knowledge or evidence gaps
 - Burden of disease
 - Unmet needs
 - Patient journey
 - Costs
- **Competitor benchmarking**
 - Pivotal data releases
 - Subanalyses and secondary publications
 - Target audience
 - Key messages
- Specific endpoints or data
 - Safety
 - Long-term extension data
 - Specific populations



Develop Research Questions

Analyses to Consider	Potential Questions	
Target audiences	Are we communicating to all relevant specialties?	
Target journal	Are we targeting journals read by target audience?	
Key data	Do we need publications focused on a specific endpoint or area of research? How does our plan benchmark against other drugs?	
Target region	Should we support local language publications, or consider a broader range of journals? Are certain regions interested in specific data versus others?	
Key messages	Is the literature sufficient to support our scientific narrative?	

B. Select Search Parameters

Keywords

- Indication
- Disease terminology
- Endpoints or populations of interest

Drug names

- Generic names
- Molecule numbers

Field parameters

- Title
- Title/abstract
- Text word
- MeSH term

Language

English, non-English

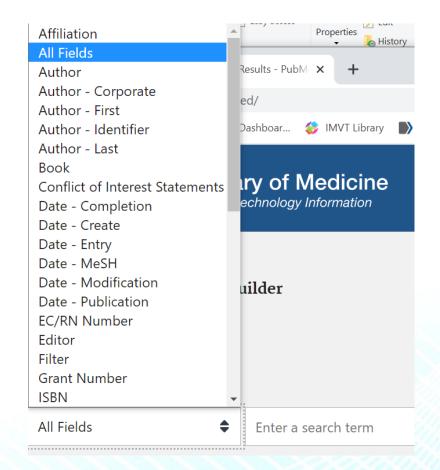




Embase







C&D. Evaluate Appropriate Timeframe & Scope of Search

Consider your objective

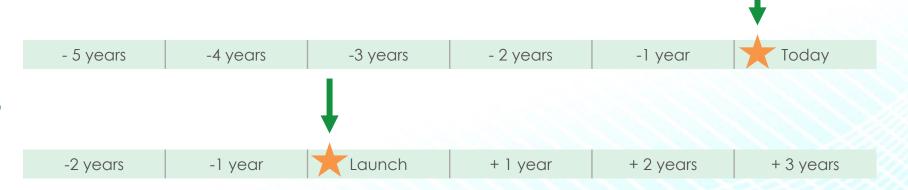
- Trends over time
- Current landscape
- Specific information (eg, competitor pivotal data)

Consider what is valuable

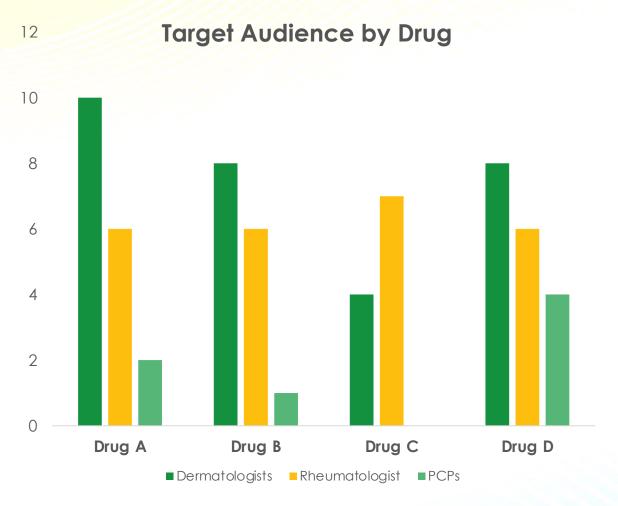
- Broad versus specific
- Appropriate competitors considering current landscape
- Volume of findings

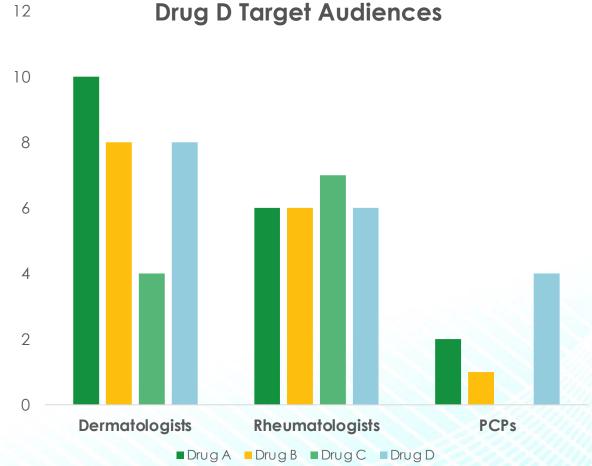
Consider the scope

- Indexed, peer-review articles (eg, PubMed)
 - Fully published
- Congress publications
 - More recently released data
- Press releases
 - Prior to or in lieu of congress presentation

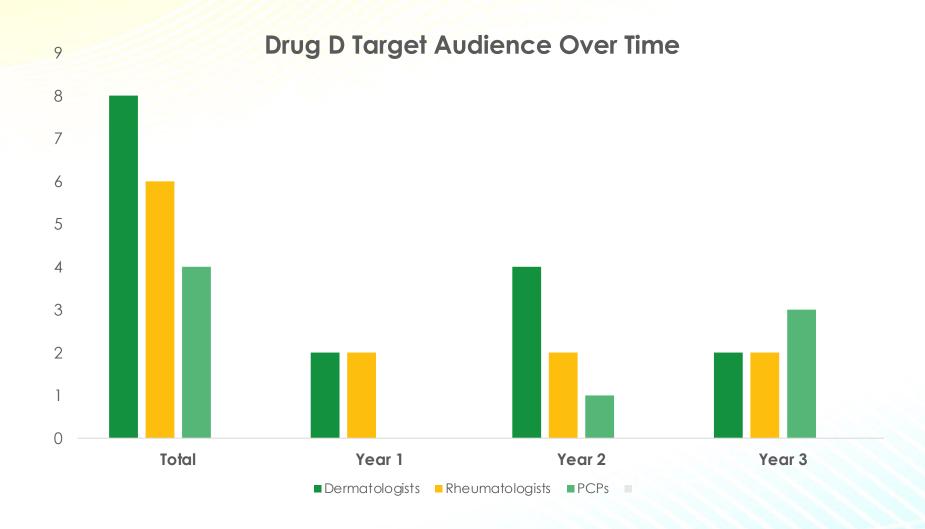


Example: Target Audience





Example: Target Audience (cont'd)



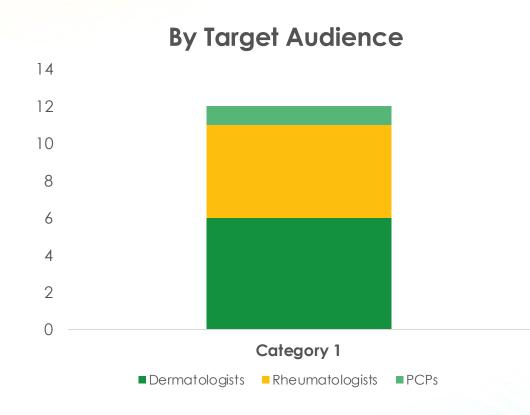
Drug D has increased publications targeted to a primary care audience over time

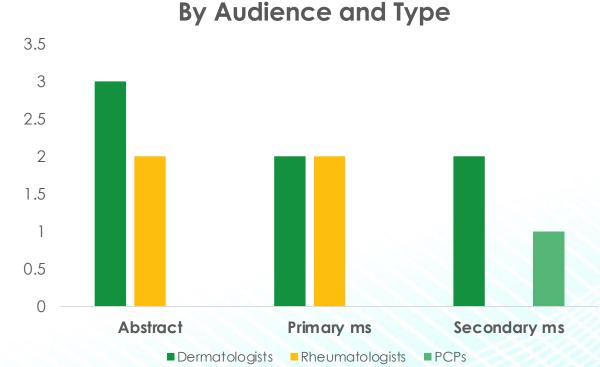
Example: Target Audience (cont'd)

Drug D has increased publications targeted to a primary care audience



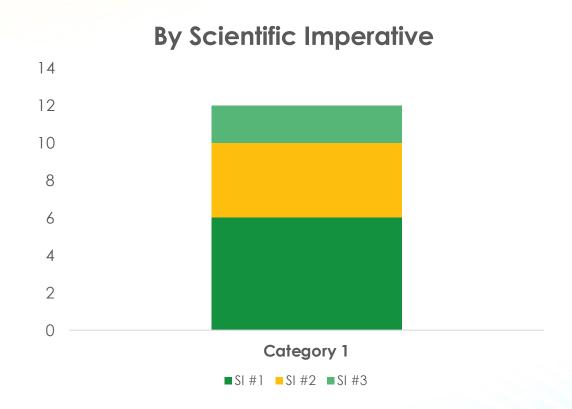
Is this a gap in our current plan?

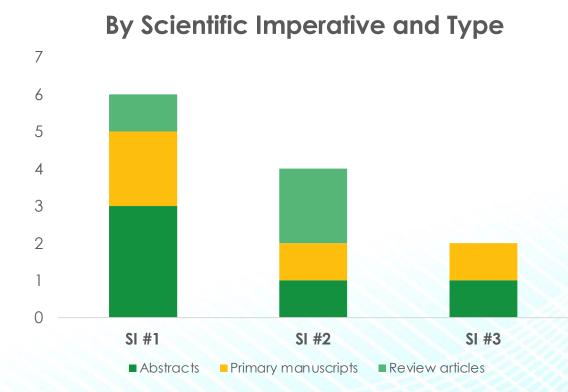




Example: Analyzing the Plan

Consider changes as appropriate **Remember to ensure that any decisions ladder up to Scientific Imperatives





Gap Identification Workboard

Consideration		Sap typ	е	Potential Opportunities to Address Gap			
Gap identified	Pub	Data	Comm	(2020–2021)			
There is a lack of literature on the MoA in this therapeutic area	X			Publish preclinical data, develop review article			
Misconception of safety profile			Х	Secondary manuscript with greater detail on safety events			
Lacking publications to the PCP audience compared with competitors	X			 Consider (1) encoring data presentations and/or (2) retargeting some manuscripts or developing a review article to PCP audience 			
No literature on current unmet needs despite available treatment options	X			Prioritize publishing patient preference data when available			
Lack of data in patient populations of interest compared with competitors		X		Secondary analyses and subsequent presentation/publication			

Apply the Findings

- Assess your current bibliography and publications plan
- Review findings with Publications Team and Steering Committee
- Build/revise your plan
 - Key topics
 - Audiences
 - Timelines and priorities
 - Align with the Integrated Evidence Plan
 - Alignment with scientific objectives

Apply the Findings: Defining Your Plan

Pub type	Data source	Topline description	Communication points supported	Audience	Target congress/journal	Anticipated timing
Manuscript	Preclinical	Preclinical/MoA data	1A	Clin Pharm	G2C	Q1
Review article	Preclinical	Description of MoA and impact on MoD	1A	Derms	JAAD	Q2
Abstract	Phase 3	Safety deep-dive	3A	Derms	AAD	Q1
Encore	Phase 3	Safety deep-dive	3A	PCPs	ACP	Q1
Manuscript	Phase 3	Safety deep-dive	3A	Derms	BJD	Q2
Review article	Multiple	Efficacy, safety, dosing regimen	2A, 2B, 3A	PCPs	JAMA	Q3
Manuscript	HEOR *avail Q2	Patient unmet needs	2B, 2C	Derms	JAAD	Q3-4
Abstract	Phase 3 subanalysis	Efficacy/safety in [population of interest]	2A, 3A	Derms, Rheums	ACR	Q4
Manuscript	Phase 3 subanalysis	Efficacy/safety in [population of interest]	2A, 3A	Rheums	J Rheum	Q4

When to Reassess Your Plan



- Annual planning
- New data releases
- Updated guidelines
- Regulatory events
- Medical insights

Minding the Gap: Examples

Example 1: Tactical Planning

Example 2: Publication Planning

Example 3: Integrated Evidence Planning

Integrated Evidence Plans: A Deeper Dive



- Tracks evidence gaps and associated evidence plans
- An internal living document
- Compiles evidence by stakeholder needs
- **Prioritizes evidence generation requirements** across functions, countries, and the product lifecycle

Facilitates strategic decision-making to support the development, launch, and lifecycle of an asset

IQVIA 2021. Establishing an Integrated Evidence Plan for Medical Affairs and Beyond; McKinsey Whitepaper 2021. Integrated Evidence Generation: A Paradigm Shift in Biopharma.

What Are the Benefits of an IEP?

Internal stakeholders



Consistent framework & approach



Prevents silos across the organization



External stakeholders



Patients: Needs, preferences, & experience



Regulators & payers: Evidence to support access

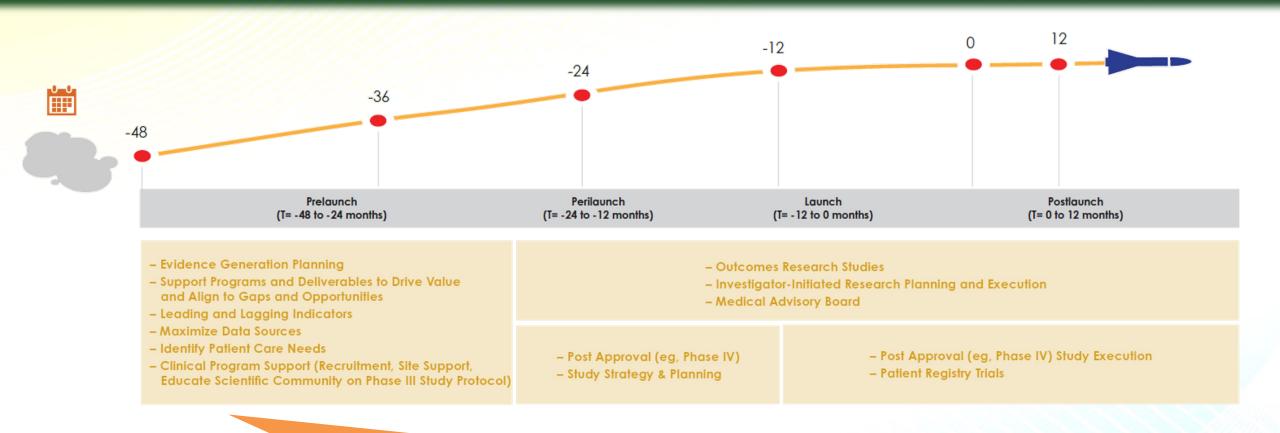


Efficient & effective resource utilization HCPs: Clinical adoption & optimal decision-making



All: Product differentiation & comparative assessment

When Should We Initiate an IEP?



- Early initiation, ideally at Proof of Concept (no later than Phase 2)
- Can be considered as early as asset discovery/preclinical

^{1.} MAPS Medical Affairs Launch Excellence. Best Practices for Medical Affairs Whitepaper 2021.

The Cross-functional IEP Process

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



Identify and prioritize gaps



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps



Product Y:

A mAb in a dermatology indication

Internal:

Product- or Company-Specific

Strengths (+)

- standard of care in direct H2H studies



Weaknesses (-)

- Not clinically differentiated



Market or-**Environment-**Specific

Opportunities (+)

- Large unmet need and an expanding market
- Patient preference for less frequen't dosing (helps them forget their disease)
- Patients want improved efficacy from treatment



Threats (-)

- Competitive market that is perception-driven
- Large competitor companies are wellestablished
- Price points are lowering due to biosimilars
- HCPs do not have desire to improve treatment goals (disconnect with patients)

Step 1: Set-Up and Collation

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



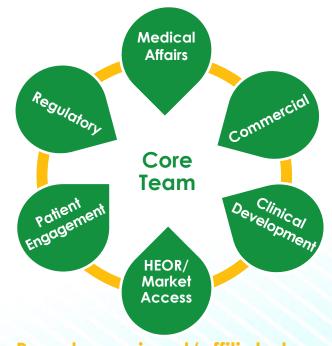
Identify and prioritize gaps



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

Set-up and collation

• Establish core cross-functional team



Broader regional/affiliate team

Medical Affairs

Market Access

Commercial

Step 2: Assess and Document

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



Identify and prioritize gaps



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

Set-up and collation

- Establish core cross-functional team
- Collate and review relevant stimuli
- Stakeholder interviews
- Develop and circulate gap template to regions

Step 2: Assess and Document

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



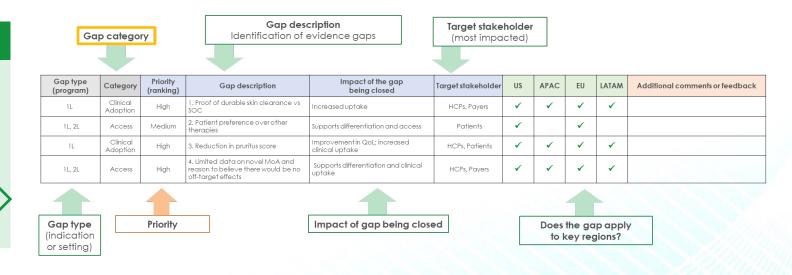
Identify and prioritize gaps



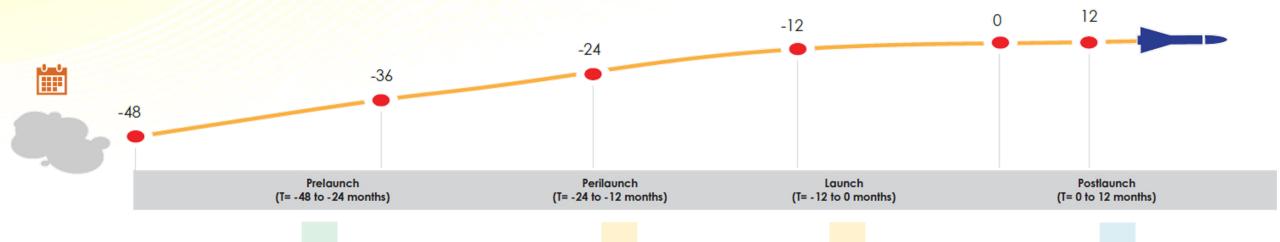
Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

Set-up and collation

- Establish core cross-functional team
- Collate and review relevant stimuli
- Stakeholder interviews
- Develop and circulate gap template to regions



How Should Gaps Be Categorized?



Align with the Scientific Platform:

- Disease state and unmet need
- Product and MoA
- Efficacy
- Safety
- Value

According to barriers the gaps address (or to stakeholders):

- Registration (regulators)
- Access & reimbursement (payers)
- Clinical adoption (HCPs, patients)

According to the product's **Strategic Imperatives:**

- Establishing need
- Novel MoA and reason to believe

Identifying Gaps: Cross-Functional Team Input

Gap category

Gap description Identification of evidence gaps if desired

Target stakeholder (most impacted)

Gap type (program)	Category	Priority (ranking)	Gap description	Impact of the gap being closed	Target stakeholder	US	APAC	EU	LATAM	Additional comments or feedback
1L	Clinical Adoption	High	1. Proof of durable skin clearance vs SOC	Increased uptake	HCPs, Payers	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1L, 2L	Access	Medium	2. Patient preference over other therapies	Supports differentiation and access	Patients	✓		✓		
1L	Clinical Adoption	High	3. Reduction in pruritus score	Improvement in QoL; increased clinical uptake	HCPs, Patients	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1L, 2L	Access	High	4. Limited data on novel MoA and reason to believe there would be no off-target effects	Supports differentiation and clinical uptake	HCPs, Payers	✓	✓	✓	✓	



or setting)





Impact of gap being closed

Does the gap apply to key regions?

Template can be broadened to also collect communications gaps,

Step 3: Identify and Prioritize the Gaps

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



Identify and prioritize gaps



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

Identify and prioritize

- Assimilate gaps
- Preliminary prioritization
- Regional workshop(s) to align prioritization

Step 3: Identify and Prioritize the Gaps

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current Medical Strategy



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



Identify and prioritize gaps

Low

low



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

Identify and prioritize

- Assimilate gaps
- Preliminary prioritization
- Regional workshop(s) to align prioritization

- Strategic alignment
- Duration of study
- Budget/resources



- Supports differentiation
- Relevance to stakeholder
- Size/number of markets impacted

Medium

High

Step 4: Develop Strategies & Tactics To Close the Gap

Identify desired goal or outcome aligned to current **Medical Strategy**



Assess and document the current situation – gather data!



Identify and prioritize gaps



Develop strategies, tactics, or actions for closing the gaps

Define strategies to fill gaps

- High-level planning workshop to identify activities to fill the gaps
- Topline budget and resourcing needs



Ratification

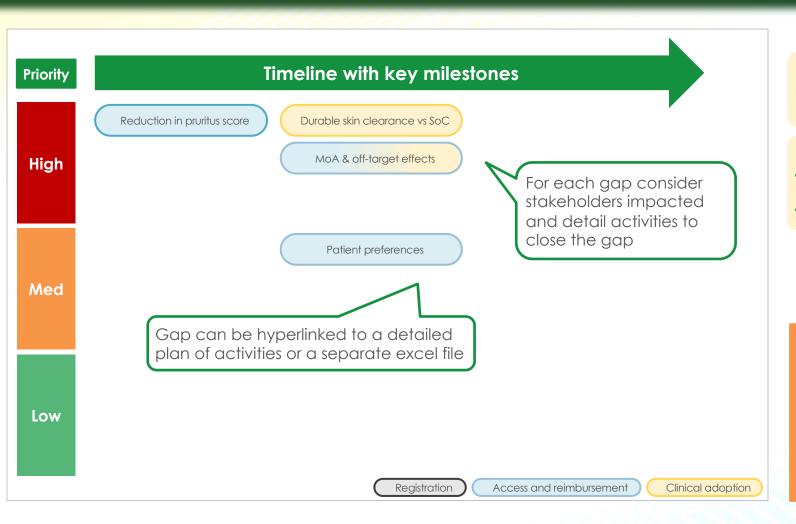
- Develop consolidated IEP with additional focus groups
- Internal (and external) stakeholder review



Design and finalize

- Establish small working groups to build study design & methodology
- Establish full timelines, budget & resource needs (where possible)

The IEP Tracks Evidence Gaps and Associated Plans



Disease state

Burden of disease

MoA

MoA and off-taraet effects

Efficacy

- Proof of durable skin clearance vs SoC
- Reduction in pruritus score

Safety

- Gap 1
- Gap 2

Value

Patient preference

For priority gaps, include:

- Activity type
- Completion date
- **Functional** owner
- Stakeholder targeted
- Estimated budget

The IEP Is a Living Document for Cross-Functional Use

Link to publications and communications plan



Review and updates



Pub type			Communication points supported		Target congress / journal	
Manuscript	Preclinical	Preclinical/MOA data	1A	Clin Pharm	G2C	Q1
Review article	Preclinical	Description of MOA and impact on MOD	1A	Derms	JAAD	Q2
Abstract	Phase 3	Safety deep-dive	3A	Derms	AAD	Ql
Encore	Phase 3	Safety deep-dive	3A	PCPs	ACP	Q1
Manuscript	Phase 3	Safety deep-dive	3A	Derms	BJD	Q2
Review article	Multiple	Efficacy, safety, dosing regimen	2A, 2B, 3A	PCPs	JAMA	Q3
Manuscript	HEOR *avail Q2	Patient unmet needs	2B, 2C	Derms	JAAD	Q3-4
Abstract	Ph3 subanalysis	Efficacy/safety in [population of interest]	2A, 3A	Derms, Rheums	ACR	Q4
Manuscript	Ph3 subanalysis	Efficacy/safety in [population of interest]	2A, 3A	Rheums	J Rheum	Q4

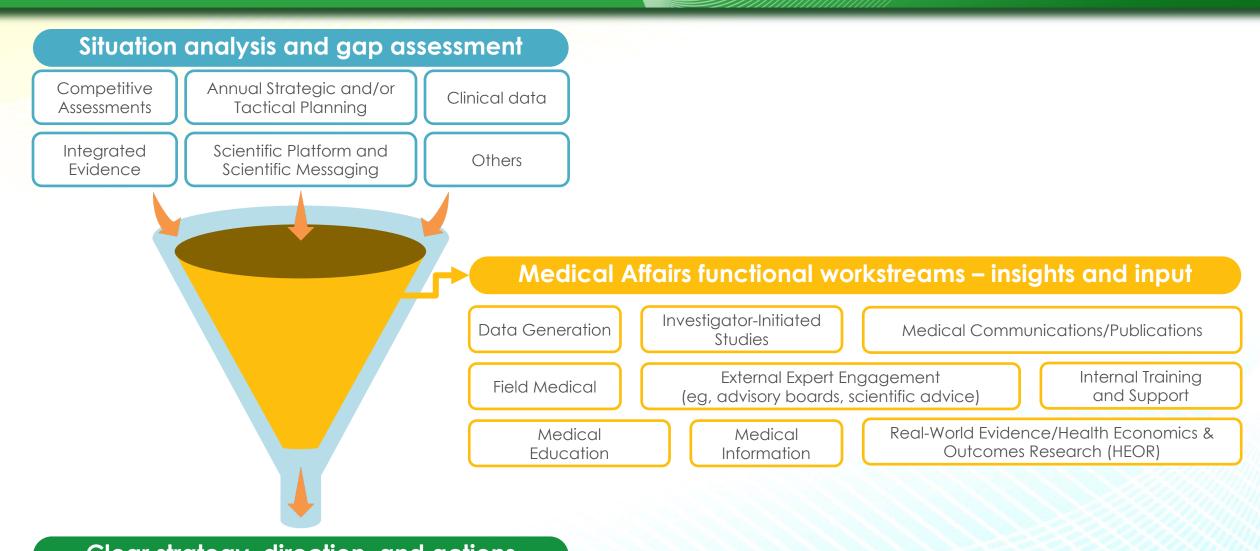
- How are you tracking against the gaps?
- Has the landscape evolved; do our plans need to change in light of this?
- Do any timelines need adjusting?
- Have new activities been initiated, or are new activities required?



Why Are Gap Analyses Important in Strategic Planning?

Amanda Henkel

Gap Analyses Should Not Be Done in a Vacuum



Clear strategy, direction, and actions

Summary: Dos and Don'ts of Gap Analyses



Things to DO

- ✓ Ask specific questions define a purpose for your analysis
- ✓ Define a strategy for information gathering (ie, search strategy/research, format)
- ✓ Maintain a consistent approach
- Organize information in a framework
- ✓ Provide interpretation for analysis



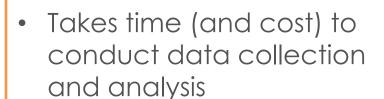
Things to AVOID

- × Have **vague needs**
- × Have too narrow scope for source material (eg, timeframe considerations, amount of material/data)
- Conducting tactics that are not aligned to your strategy or gaps
- × Working alone ensure you gain cross-functional team input

Benefits and Limitations of a Gap Analyses



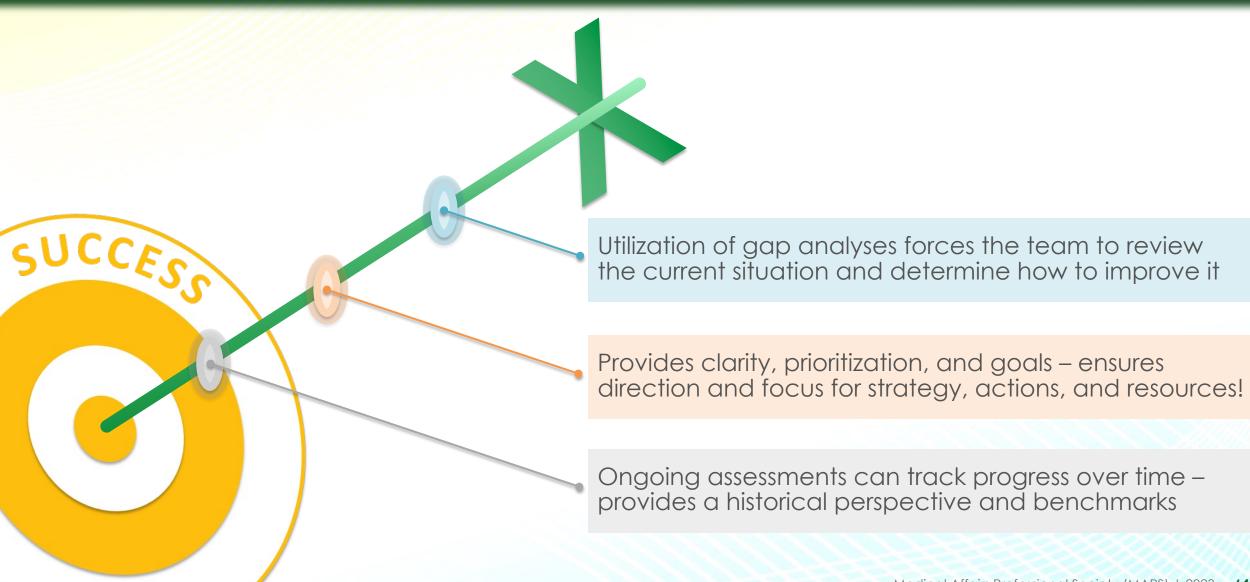
- Provides a comprehensive overview of what is being assessed (interpretation and depth)
- Helps to prioritize actions
- Provides a clear plan for strategic activities and informed decision-making



- Internal biases and level of knowledge may impact analysis
- Constantly changing landscapes may make gap analyses quickly obsolete



What Does Good Look Like?



Polling Question

As a result of this webinar, what do you believe you will do differently?



- Nothing
- Apply gap analyses for tactical planning only
- Apply gap analyses in different settings
- Work with my cross-functional team to complete gap analyses
- Devise a formal plan for updating and revising previously completed gap analyses
- Other



Thank you! Questions?