

Helping U.S. FDA Forecast Medical Technologies

Creating a Global Government Capability

CUSTOMER NEED

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the safety of food and medicine supply in the United States. They knew that disruptive and threatening medical advances were underway, but there was no national effort to study and prepare for them. FDA requested TechCast to advise them on a study of emerging medical technologies.

OUR SOLUTION

With our advice, FDA decided to assess the prospects for medical advances by using a panel of experts drawn from National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Commerce, and pharmaceutical and biotech companies. We helped FDA and the study team understand Delphi forecasting method, formulate their research plans, conduct interviews with experts, and aggregate the data.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

Final study results were presented for discussion at a conference, which included all stakeholders. They reviewed the data, discussed the results for their policy implications, and formulated plans for continuing this forecasting work. The outcome was the first serious effort to coordinate strategies for health care development across the United States.

Today, the U.S. Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) and similar government programs in the U.K., Spain, Austria, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are forecasting medical technologies after learning from our research on how the Technology Revolution is transforming medicine. They are also pooling their knowledge in an on-line repository to avoid redundant work, making better results available around the world far faster and more cost-effectively.

