

The European Patients Forum
Health Technology Assessment Seminar – 18 May 2010

Background

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) has become a priority area at EU level, primarily as part of a strategy to ensure the sustainability of healthcare systems, and to enhance EU cooperation and good practice in this area of HTA.

The European Commission is funding a Joint Action on HTA, EUnetHTA that commenced formally in January 2010. This grew in part out of the EUnetHTA project outcomes and the conclusions and recommendations from the Pharmaceutical Forum on Relative Effectiveness (see www.eunethta.net).

A EUnetHTA meeting chaired by the European Commission on how to work effectively with stakeholders took place on 6 November 2009 to which EPF attended and EPF will be part of the EUnetHTA stakeholder group.

Stakeholders are also striving to ensure that the Proposed Directive on Patients Rights in Cross Border Healthcare has an explicit article on HTA that includes stakeholder involvement.

HTA has been identified as a priority in the Public Health Programme 2010 and EPF is also involved in a project submission.

EPF and HTA

EPF's baseline position is that patients as individual experts, and patient organisations should be involved meaningfully in HTA processes.

In general terms, this is happening only in an ad hoc, piecemeal fashion across the Member States, with some reservations in a number of countries on the added value of involving patients.

On the other hand, with some exceptions, there is generally limited knowledge and knowhow across the broad EU patient community on the science and the policy rationale behind HTA and mechanisms to get involved effectively.

EPF Spring Seminar on HTA

The EPF Spring Seminar of HTA will respond to this gap. It will take place in Brussels on 18th May 2010 targeted towards EPF membership, and patient group allies.

The purpose of the event is enable around 80 patient leaders across different parts of Europe to learn more about the science, methodologies, processes and policies behind HTA, and how they can get involved in a constructive, meaningful way as patient representatives.

The seminar will draw on the learning from an LSE meeting in Autumn 2009, but target the more general patient leader population from across the European Union.

We will draw on the Guide to HTA 'Understanding Health Technology Assessment' developed by Health Equality Europe and written by Jean Mossman, HTA expert UK.

The Seminar will also be an opportunity to explore political developments at EU level, both in relation to HTA and the HTA / stakeholder dimension of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive.

Expected Outcomes of the Seminar

- Greater know-how and policy awareness and activism in relation to HTA among 80 patient leaders that will then be transferred to their respective organisations across the European Union,
- Seminar Policy Toolkit made available on the EPF website and translated into French, German, Spanish and disseminated widely to the EPF mailing list of patient organisations and allies,
- Inter alia, enhanced recognition on the part of policy makers at various levels that patient involvement in HTA process is fundamental, and a better understanding of how this could be achieved in practice,
- A tangible follow up of the Pharmaceutical Forum process, particularly in relation to the Relative Effectiveness strand, and discussion on next steps,
- A meeting point for debate on the HTA dimension of the Cross Border Healthcare Directive and what that means in practice.

**EPF Spring Seminar on HTA
Programme**

18th May 2010, Brussels
CROWNE PLAZA EUROPA HOTEL BRUSSELS,
Rue de la Loi, 107 – B-1040 BRUSSELS

Timing

8.30 - 9.00	Registration
9.00 - 10.30	<p>Welcome, introduction and setting the scene, moderated by EPF President, Anders Olauson</p> <p>Keynote address by Dr. Andrzej Rys, Director of Public Health and Risk Assessment, European Commission</p> <p>A helicopter view of HTA in different settings, what's at stake for patients - Jean Mossman, European Federation of Neurological Associations</p> <p>Perspective of other stakeholders :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A health professional perspective – Dr. Michael Wilks, Standing Committee of European Doctors - Industry perspective - Andrea Rappagliosi, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
10.30 - 11.00	<p>EUnetHTA Joint action, presentation by Jerome Boehm, Head of EU level activities on HTA, European Commission and Dr. Iris Pasternack, MD, research officer in the Finnish Office for HTA, EUnetHTA</p>
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00	<p>Parallel Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The science and methodologies behind HTA, diversity and commonality across the EU <i>Moderator</i> – Jean Mossman, European Federation of Neurological Associations • The politics of HTA at EU and national level – how can patient groups best get involved <i>Moderator</i> – Panos Kanavos, LSE, Health and Department of Economics and Social policy • Applying the Value + Model on Patient Involvement in HTA processes <i>Moderator</i> – Maria Navarro, Spanish Patients' Forum
13.00 - 13.45	Lunch

- 13.45 - 15.15** Parallel Workshops repeated
- The science and methodologies behind HTA, diversity and commonality across the EU
Moderator – Jean Mossman, European Federation of Neurological Associations
 - The politics of HTA at EU and national level – how can patient groups best get involved
Moderator – Panos Kanavos, LSE
 - Applying the Value + Model on Patient Involvement in HTA processes
Moderator – Maria Navarro, Spanish Patients' Forum

15.15 - 15.45 Coffee break

This session will be moderated by Panos Kavanos, LSE.

15.45 - 16.15 Report back on key conclusions and recommendations from the patient community

16.15 - 16.45 Last word from the floor, take away messages and follow-up action review

16.45 - 17.15 Closing Speech – Albert Jovell, President of Spanish Patients' Forum and former EPF board member

Closing of the seminar – Anders Olauson, EPF President

Acknowledgement of Financial Support

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