

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (HTA)

WHAT IS A HEALTH TECHNOLOGY?

The term refers to any aspect of healthcare such as:

Organisational and supportive procedures



Diagnostic tests and treatment methods



Medical equipment and devices



Pharmaceuticals



Rehabilitation and prevention programmes

WHAT IS HTA?

Health technology assessment (HTA) measures the added value of a new health technology in comparison to existing technologies/current standard of care.

- At **national level**, the information gathered from an HTA is used to inform decision making about reimbursement and target population of a specific technology.
- At **European level**, HTA is *“a multidisciplinary process that summarises information about the medical, social, economic, and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner. Its aim is to inform the formulation of safe, effective, health policies that are patient focused and seek to achieve best value”* (EUnetHTA).

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO PATIENTS?



1. Patients are the ultimate users of health technologies, as such they have a crucial role in the assessment process.



2. Decisions made on availability and reimbursement of technologies have an impact on access to high quality healthcare.



3. At European level patients can advocate and promote models for patient involvement among other stakeholders.



4. HTA can prevent financing technologies with limited or no-added value

WHAT ROLE DOES THE EU PLAY IN THIS AREA?

The European Commission is working on a reflection process on the future of EU cooperation on HTA.

The European Commission is supporting two major initiatives at HTA both focusing on cooperation: the HTA Network and a third Joint Action (JA) on HTA (EUNetHTA):

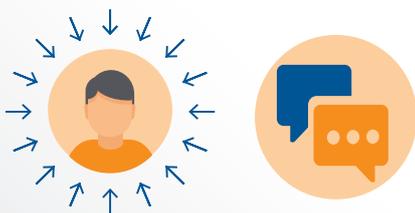


- ✓ The HTA Network provides strategic guidance to the cooperation. It gathers Member States' competent authorities responsible for HTA. Stakeholders are also represented as observers.
- ✓ The Joint Action EUNetHTA (2016-2020) focus is on technical and scientific issues: it develops joint assessments and tools that can be used by HTA bodies to facilitate sharing of information and joint work. It gathers 79 HTA organisations from nearly all Member States plus Switzerland and Norway.
- ✓ In addition, the FP7 work programme (2007-2013) and Horizon 2020 have facilitated a range of research projects on HTA (examples: Integrate-HTA, AdhopHTA, Advance-HTA, MedTechHTA).

EPF INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- ➔ HTAi (Health Technology Assessment international) is the global scientific and professional society for all those who produce, use, or encounter HTA. It stands as a neutral forum for collaboration and the sharing of leading information and expertise.
- ➔ ISPOR (International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research) is an international multidisciplinary professional membership society that advances the policy, science, and practice of pharmacoeconomics (health economics) and outcomes research.
- ➔ EUPATI Toolbox: a core product of the EUPATI project, the toolbox will provide patient advocates trustworthy and understandable information and education around how the medicines research and development process works, including HTA.

WHAT DO WE RECOMMEND?



TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- ➔ EPF calls for better and more transparent communication about decision making both at EU and national level
- ➔ Reports and templates produced in a HTA assessment should be adapted to and made accessible for patients. A better informed patient is a better contributor.

MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

- ➔ EPF calls for a meaningful involvement of the patient community in the whole life cycle of HTA.
- ➔ Patients' inputs in the scoping, assessment, and reporting of HTA process lead to results that better meet patients/public needs.

