Health First Europe Recommendations for HTA

A more inclusive process:

• Increased stakeholder involvement in the HTA process (especially patient groups, healthcare practitioners, healthcare planners / payers and industry).

• Creation of a stakeholder appeal process for decisions on HTA with appeals considered by a body independent of the original assessment.

• Declaration of conflicts of interest made by all stakeholders including HTA assessors.

A more transparent process:

• Increased transparency of the methodologies used to determine value in HTA assessments with support for the implementation of HTA decisions (both positive and negative) by a clear audit trial.

• Flexibility in the approach to HTA to capture the full impact of medical technologies on patients, carers, the healthcare system and society in general.

• Reporting by HTA authorities to a central online repository so that a real-time map of approved medical products are available to all EU citizens.

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HEALTH FIRST EUROPE

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

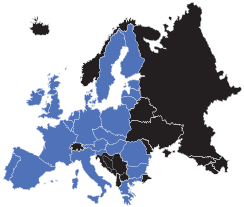
What is HTA?

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is the process of evaluating the impact of medical technologies. HTA examines the medical, economic, quality of life, social and ethical impacts of a specific health intervention. Assessment plays an important role in determining the appropriate use of products within healthcare systems throughout Europe.

What is the role of HTA in healthcare?

HTA is not a cost-containment tool, but rather a means to assess the value of products designed for different patient groups. The application of HTA vary across Member States, from providing guidance to healthcare professionals to setting formal reimbursement conditions for medical technologies.

POLICY BACKGROUND on Health Technology Assessment



HTA is an important tool in the healthcare decision making process. With ageing populations and an increasing burden due to chronic diseases, it is inevitable that Member States face some difficult decisions about the extent of expenditure for healthcare and how healthcare is composed.

Since innovation in medical technology provides opportunities to improve the quality and effectiveness of healthcare delivery to patients, a comprehensive approach to HTA (capturing the full range of impacts of medical technologies) is necessary to ensure innovation can continue and healthcare budgets are used to their greatest potential.

A tailored approach must be taken for the evaluation of different technologies as pharmaceutical, medical devices and diagnostics all have specific characteristics in terms of how each advances the lives of patients and the healthcare systems of Member States. Flexibility and transparency throughout HTA processes should ensure that HTA outcomes fairly reflect the benefits of products and are accessible to patients for whom the products are designed.

To improve the HTA process and share best practices, EUnetHTA has served as a collaborative network in Europe for Member State HTA authorities since 2006. Further collaboration in the EU will occur as prescribed in the Cross-border Healthcare Directive and it is essential that sufficient and transparent input from end-users exists within EUnetHTA procedures, particularly with regards to patient and healthcare professional participation.