



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 12 May 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 12 May 2023.

Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) attended. Representatives from Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA) and Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) and a representative each from the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) and the HTA Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC), were invited to speak to the Committee.

What did the Committee discuss?

Emerging health technologies and characteristics that may challenge existing Australian funding structures and/or HTA approaches

The Committee reviewed a draft paper that is under development on emerging types of health technologies that will require assessment for funding in the foreseeable future and the potential challenges to existing Australian funding structures and HTA approaches posed by these health technologies. The high-level discussion included the challenges posed by different types of emerging technologies such as cell and gene therapies, tumour agnostic therapies and emerging therapy linked technologies such as co-dependent genetic and genomic testing and digital health technologies. The paper will continue to be developed for intended publication in late June/early July.

Update on Consultation 1

The Committee noted the number of written submissions and registrations for small-group forums that had been received. The Committee noted that the Office of Health Technology Assessment Consultation Hub is intended to open for expressions of interest for deep-dives with the Committee in the week of 15 May 2023.

Consumer engagement and consideration in HTA

The Committee heard from a representative from the CEEU and a representative from the HTA CCC on current HTA consumer processes and HTA consumer support activities that have taken place in recent years. The Committee noted how consumers are currently involved in HTA processes and how recent reviews which examined consumer and patient engagement in HTA processes have informed the ongoing activities of the CEEU. The Committee and representatives agreed it would be important for the CEEU to engage with the HTA experts during the Review to provide input to inform the development of the paper on consumer evidence. The CEEU will provide the Committee with a final report on the recent 'Conversations for Change' consultation undertaken by the CEEU as an input to the

Review. The Committee also noted the co-design of an Enhanced Consumer Engagement Process as part of the 2022-2027 Strategic Agreement between the Commonwealth and Medicines Australia, with consumer, industry and government involvement.

Draft Research Protocols from HTA Experts

The HTA experts presented their research protocols and plans and sought feedback from the Committee. The Committee noted the countries proposed for analysis by the HTA experts and the literature search methods that would be utilised. The Committee also considered that papers investigating equity of access in populations in circumstances that give rise to vulnerability should include measures implemented for Indigenous populations in Canada and New Zealand noting that these populations have similar social and cultural determinants of health as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Committee reviewed the consultation approach for the experts' research and analysis and agreed that it would be important for the HTA experts to also hear from pharmaceutical Industry experts during the development of papers.

Meeting with the Minister for Health and Aged Care

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, joined the meeting to discuss the HTA Review. The Minister emphasised the importance of the HTA Review for all Australians. The Minister noted the importance of consumer engagement during the HTA Review process. The Minister also expressed that it would be important to engage with the current Review of National Hospital Funding Agreement during the HTA Review due to common elements within the scopes of these reviews.