



Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC)

HTA CCC Communique – Thursday 18th August 2022
21st meeting of the HTA CCC, held via videoconference

Attendees

Consumer representatives from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and its subcommittee, the Drug Utilisation Sub Committee; the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and its subcommittees, the PICO Advisory Sub Committee (PASC) and Evaluation Sub Committee (ESC); and the Prostheses List Advisory Committee.

Department of Health and Aged Care (department) representatives from the Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit (CEEU) and the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) HTA Support Unit.

Outcomes

The Chair (Jo Watson) provided an overview of her activities since the last HTA CCC meeting held on 18 May 2022. These activities included meetings with Leukaemia Foundation, virtual attendance at the Health Technology Assessment International annual meeting and work as part of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Advisory Committee (MRAC).

The Chair noted a series of meetings had been held with patient organisations to discuss consumer issues arising from the 2021 HTA Consumer Symposium. Additional consumer and patient engagement-related activities are taking place in late August and into September 2022 and there are also activities in October and November 2022 including the HTA Consumer Symposium being held on 18 and 19 October 2022.

The CEEU report was presented by the CEEU Lead, who advised that the new HTA webpages are progressing and that there is a new topic on the department webpages about medicines: [Medicines | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#). The 2021 'Making Connections' Symposium Evaluation Report has been finalised and will be published on the department's website.

The CEEU Lead will speak at a 'Q&A' Facebook Live event on 24 August 2022 for the Patient Voice Initiative to coincide with the release of the PBAC November 2022 Agenda. The event will mainly focus on how to submit input via the OHTA Consultation Hub.

It was also noted that the Life Saving Drugs Program and Post Market Review areas in the department had sought input from the CEEU on consumer summaries, and these had been well received.

The CEEU Lead gave an overview of the MSAC consultation process. The CEEU is now the coordination point for MSAC consultations and tracks all input received, who provided the input and the stakeholders targeted for consultations.

Key points of the MSAC consultation process include:

- The timing depends on the application's assessment pathway.
- For most applications on a standard pathway, public consultation starts once the department has published the relevant PASC meeting agenda.
- During this public consultation period, the department contacts some health professional and consumer organisations directly for their input. These individuals and groups are identified as part of the suitability process. This is referred to as targeted consultation.
- A second round of consultation is triggered once an application is included in an ESC/MSAC meeting agenda.
- The CEEU emails stakeholders who gave input at the PASC stage to inform them of ESC/MSAC consideration, attaching the PICO Confirmation and drawing attention to the summary of PASC consultation input.
- Timing between PASC and ESC consideration varies depending on the type of assessment report produced (i.e. applicant developed assessment or department contracted assessment).

The CEEU Lead gave an overview of proposed 'Conversations for Change' consultation activities occurring over the next six months. The first engagement activity will be an online survey. The survey will seek input on what, when and how the public's views and experiences can best be provided to help inform the Government funding decisions on medicines and medical services.

The CEEU proposed to hold targeted conversations with clinicians, and groups involved in the HTA process, with feedback to be presented at the upcoming Conversations for Change Symposium. Based on feedback from last year's symposium, this year's symposium is planned to be two half days beginning the afternoon on 18 October and starting mid-morning on 19 October 2022.

The next CCC meeting is scheduled for November 2022.