



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 10 November 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 10 November 2023.

Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) and the probity advisor also attended.

What did the Committee discuss?

Issues and options for reform following the deep-dive on Medical Services Advisory Committee Processes and Methods

The Committee deliberated over issues and options arising from the deep-dive discussion on Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) Processes and Methods at its meeting on 24 July 2023, and subsequent discussions including with the MSAC secretariat. The Committee noted the differences in public subsidy provisioning, processes and timeframes depending on which HTA committee makes recommendations to Government. The Committee noted an increasing co-dependence of health technologies requiring separate advice from both MSAC and PBAC, which may not always have aligned evaluation cycles, as well as health technologies that rely on multiple service providers and payers to implement. The Committee considered it was important to ensure timely and equitable access to health technologies considered by MSAC such as codependent health technologies and highly specialised therapies. The Committee also considered the importance of clear HTA and funding pathways for sponsors. The Committee discussed a number of potential options including the consequences of different options. The Committee agreed to further refine these options for the Consultation 2 Options Paper.

Discussion on the proposed structure for the Options Paper for Consultation 2

The Committee discussed a preliminary structure for the Consultation 2 Options Paper. The Committee considered that there should be adequate context and reasoning for options to ensure it is clear to stakeholders why certain options have been developed. The Committee considered that the Paper should make clear the current HTA assessment and funding pathways including key decision points and the body responsible for the decision (e.g. government, the sponsor). The Review Secretariat informed the Committee that it would further develop the structure based on the Committee's deliberations and seek the Committee's view on a revised structure.

Issues and options for reform following the deep-dive on Issues and Opportunities relating to HTA from State & Territory Perspectives

The Committee deliberated over issues and options arising from the deep-dive discussion on Issues and Opportunities relating to HTA from State and Territory Perspectives at its meeting on 18 August 2023, as well as subsequent discussions. The Committee recalled key issues raised in the deep-dive relating to funding and delivery resources for highly specialised therapies, HTA processes for highly specialised therapies and communication between the Commonwealth and jurisdictions in relation to the provision of health technologies. The Committee discussed a number of potential options to address the key issues previously raised. The Committee noted the ongoing Mid-Term Review of the National Health Reform Agreement Addendum 2020-2025 may make recommendations in relation to the delivery and funding arrangements of highly specialised therapies. The Committee agreed to further refine these options for the Consultation 2 Options Paper.

Discussion on Consultation 2 planning

The Committee discussed the logistics around preparation for and opening of Consultation 2. The Review Secretariat requested for Committee members to advise on their availability to allow planning of consultation workshops.

Meeting close and next meeting

The Committee noted the next meeting will be held on 14 November 2023.