



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 15 December 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 15 December 2023. Support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department and the probity advisor attended.

What did the Committee discuss?

Issues and options for reform relating to funding and purchasing decisions and managing uncertainty

The Committee deliberated over issues and options from the HTA expert research paper on funding and purchasing decisions and managing uncertainty. The Committee recalled that international approaches to fund and purchase new health technologies varied widely across jurisdictions with differences in HTA process, remit of HTA bodies, selection of technologies eligible for assessment and how HTA outcomes influence reimbursement decisions pricing negotiations, and type of payer. The Committee discussed how pricing negotiations may be informed by a range of considerations including HTA recommendations, reference pricing and direct negotiation/tendering. The Committee recalled that in the context of funding and purchasing health technologies, the key types of uncertainty are clinical uncertainty, economic uncertainty and financial uncertainty and that different types of uncertainty may require different approaches for resolution.

The Committee noted the views of stakeholders based on input received through Consultation 1, including the perception that while there are approaches to addressing uncertainty within the system, particularly in the form of managed access programs, they may be under-utilised. In addition, some stakeholders held the view that uncertainty is viewed too conservatively, and that this results in less timely reimbursement while steps to address the uncertainty are agreed to throughout the HTA process. The Committee noted that stakeholders considered that advancements in health technologies call for changes in how those therapies are evaluated and funded, particularly with respect to the consideration of costs relative to the uncertain clinical benefit.

The Committee discussed potential options in relation to different factors which may be taken into consideration in funding and purchasing decision-making and different types of funding tools. The Committee recognised a number of risks and implications with potential options which would need to be addressed and agreed to further refine these options for the Consultation 2 Options Paper.

Overarching pathways – continued

The Committee continued its discussion regarding an overarching evaluation pathway for different types of PBAC submissions to recommendation, based on options considered by the Committee to date. The Committee discussed how some pathways may be more simplified and/or streamlined compared to others. The Committee agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

Meeting close and next meeting

The Committee noted the next meeting will be held on 18 December 2023.