



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 18 December 2023 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 18 December 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 on HTA methods used in economic evaluation

The Committee deliberated over issues and options from the HTA Expert, Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation's (CHERE) paper on HTA Methods: Economic Evaluation. The Committee recalled that the paper outlined approaches to economic evaluation in Australia and internationally including special approaches for health technologies for rare diseases and small patient populations. The Committee noted that Australia's guidance with respect to valuing non-health benefits was similar to that of most jurisdictions. The Committee recalled that some jurisdictions which use firm incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) thresholds have systems to allow modification of HTA decision making for the purposes of equity.

The Committee noted that input received through Consultation 1 indicated that stakeholders perceived there to be issues around comparator selection, particularly where there is a large difference in cost between a new health technology and existing therapies for the same condition. The Committee also noted that stakeholders raised that the value of the therapy estimated by the ICER does not include certain benefits (e.g. second order effects that are those beyond health outcomes for the patient and the population) and that equity issues are not currently considered in a systematic way.

The Committee discussed a number of potential options including around comparator selection, use of explicit value frameworks, increasing transparency of HTA decision-making regarding elements defining clinical/cost effectiveness and price negotiation processes. The Committee agreed to further refine these options for the Consultation 2 Options Paper.

Issues and options for reform on communicating HTA pathways and decision making and consumer evidence and engagement throughout the HTA process

The Committee deliberated over issues and options relating to communication of HTA pathways and decision making, consumer evidence and consumer engagement. The Committee recalled the key issues raised in the Conversations for Change report published in June 2023, Consultation 1 input and the HTA expert papers. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of consumers as co-designers of evidence, pathways and process, and

communications. The Committee acknowledged the body of work being undertaken by the Co-Design Working Group and the Department's Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit and reiterated the clear need to be cognisant of this work and not pre-empt its outcomes in the Committee's formation of potential options. The Committee discussed potential options around increasing transparency of HTA decisions and pathways, consumer participation in various stages of HTA engagement and use of consumer evidence. The Committee agreed to further refine these options for the Consultation 2 Options Paper.

Other matters

The Committee continued discussion on options around evaluation pathways for different types of PBAC submissions. The Committee agreed to further discussion at its next meeting.

Meeting close and next meeting

The Committee noted the next meeting will be held on 21 December 2023.