



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 1 March 2024 to 2 May 2024 inclusive

The Communique covers the deliberative period of the Review leading into the completion of the final report.

The Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review (HTA Review) Reference Committee met by video conference on the following dates:

- 1 March 2024
- 7 March 2024
- 12 March 2024
- 21 March 2024
- 27 March 2024
- 3 April 2024
- 5 April 2024
- 8 April 2024
- 11 April 2024
- 19 April 2024
- 26 April 2024
- 2 May 2024

The final HTA Review Reference Committee meeting was held on 2 May 2024.

Throughout this period, the Reference Committee met with representatives from:

- Life Saving Drugs Program (LSPD) Expert Panel
- Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC)
- Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)
- Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)
- States and Territory jurisdictions
- The Co-Design Working Group for the HTA Enhancement Consumer Engagement Process, and
- Consultation 2 facilitation consultants from Bastion Insights.

Support staff from the HTA Review Secretariat in the Department were in attendance at all meetings.

Topics of discussion

The Reference Committee met between 1 March to 2 May 2024 and has engaged in extensive discussion and deliberation across all the proposed recommendations for reform, with particular focus on:

- equity for First Nations peoples and other underrepresented groups,
- time to access
- transparency and stakeholder involvement

- approaches to funding mechanisms for bridging funding, new health technologies, and managed access program
- post-HTA decision processes/arrangements such as delisting and disinvestment
- base case discount rate
- cost minimisation
- selection of the comparator, and
- medicines for paediatric indications.

The Reference Committee also discussed a range of topics, including (and not limited to):

- gaps in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), managing uncertainty and triaging unmet need
- alignment of the HTA Review with the National Medicines Policy, National Health Act, and National Health Reform Agreement
- reportable findings and performance measuring metrics for inclusion in the final HTA Review report
- qualification of short-, medium- and long-term timeframes for proposed recommendations
- opportunities to increase value of consumer inputs, and mechanisms to future proof consumer engagement
- current challenges and future opportunities for HTA resourcing and capacity.
- the importance of retaining the expertise of advisory committees (including LSDP and ATAGI) when considering a streamlined “single front door” or proportionate advice approach for HTA submissions
- harmonisation of and pathways for jointly Commonwealth and State funded health technologies
- the value of real-world evidence collection and real-world data to support ongoing decision making, particularly for rare diseases
- antimicrobial resistance, and
- proportionate appraisal pathways, including early resolution mechanisms

Throughout the meetings, the Reference Committee discussed the direction and specific wording of each recommendation to be included in the final report, and reached consensus on all its final recommendations, except where indicated in the final HTA Review report.

During the final meeting, the Reference Committee confirmed the report title as “Accelerating Access to the Best Medicines for Australians Now and into the Future: A review of Australia's health technology assessment policy and methods for the Australian Government”