Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Frequently Asked Questions Page

27 October 2022

What is Health Technology Assessment?

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) refers to the processes and mechanisms based on scientific evidence used to assess the comparative quality, safety, efficacy, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of health technologies.

What is the HTA Policy and Methods Review and why is it important?

The HTA Policy and Methods Review (HTA Review) is a mutual acknowledgement by the Australian Government and the medicines industry that medical technology is progressing rapidly and a step-change is required to keep pace with advances in science as well as continuous evaluation and improvement to help ensure access as early as possible to the most effective medicines for all Australians.

Who is reviewing?

On 27 October 2022, Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced the following members of the Reference Committee for the HTA Review.

- Independent Chair: Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO
- Patient Representatives: Ms Ann Single and Dr Dawn Casey PSM
- Chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee: Professor Andrew Wilson
- Clinical/Scientific Representative: Professor Andrew Roberts AM
- Industry Representative: Mr John Young
- Government Nominee: Ms Adriana Platona PSM

What is the HTA Review looking at?

The Terms of Reference for the HTA Review will be prepared by the Reference Committee. Under the Strategic Agreement, the HTA Review is to consider a number of important areas including:

- Selection of comparator(s)
- Methods for evaluating rare diseases for reimbursement and alternative funding pathways if required
- Methods for evaluating new and emerging technologies (including cell and gene therapies, and other precision-based medicines) and the suitability of existing funding pathways as required
- Methods for evaluating all new medicines and vaccines

- Use of real-world evidence including from sources other than randomised controlled trials
- Managing clinical, economic, financial and other uncertainty
- The feasibility of international work-sharing for reimbursement submissions

Who will benefit?

- Australian patients will continue to benefit from access to affordable breakthrough, innovative medicines as early as possible.
- The medicines industry will benefit from stability and certainty for investment in new medicines and assessment processes that remain world class and keep pace with rapid advances in medicine enabling them to be marketed and funded in Australia as they emerge.
- The Australian economy will benefit from improved health outcomes, and continued investment in research and innovation.

How can you get involved?

The timing for stakeholder consultations will be announced following establishment of the Reference Committee.