GETTING INVOLVED IN A EUNETHTA ASSESSMENT: *INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS*

What is HTA?

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a multidisciplinary process that summarises information about medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of the health technology: diagnostic tests (e.g. x-ray, blood tests), medications, prevention (e.g. vaccination), surgeries (e.g. laparoscopic surgery), and medical devices (e.g. cochlear implant).

What is EUnetHTA?

EUnetHTA was established to create an effective and sustainable network for HTA across Europe. We work together to help develop reliable, timely, transparent and transferable information to contribute to HTA in European countries.

Our goals are to:

- Increase the production and uptake of high-quality HTA joint work;
- Support decision-makers in promoting the sustainability of health systems;
- Protect citizens against ineffective technologies,
- Provide access to high-value health technologies; and
- Disseminate health information and knowledge.

Through its activities, EUnetHTA provides an access point for communication with stakeholders to promote transparency, objectivity, independence of expertise, fairness of procedure, and appropriate stakeholder consultations.

How does EUnetHTA work?

Besides methodology and guidance development, technical documents and registries, two products are the main result of our collaboration: Assessments and Early Dialogues. The basic information in these pages relates to *Assessments*.

Stakeholders are involved in several ways in EUnetHTA work. As patients, EUnetHTA wants to hear from you and receive your input on either experience, quality of life, or other specific topics.

What is the benefit for patients?

Collaboration in EUnetHTA Assessments

What is an assessment?

An assessment is an evaluation of existing evidence that answers clinical questions on healthcare technologies (intervention) such as: How well does a new technology work compared with standard health technologies? For which population group does it work best?

Through high standard quality procedures, and using specific methodologies, the relevant results or outcomes related to the topic are analysed and a conclusion over the technology is presented in a report on safety and effectiveness of the assessed technology (Rapid Effectiveness Assessment, REA). However, recommendations are only made at a national level.

What role do patients perform?

Providing your insight

As a patient, your intimate knowledge of the condition and the experience of the care you

receive are both essential to complement existent evidence on the disease. Your perspective as a patient will help the assessment teams to deliver a better understanding of the social or ethical aspects of your situation, while contributing to improved decision-making outcomes for future consideration. In general, it will not be necessary for patients to have an extensive knowledge about HTA.

If you are a caregiver

As a caregiver, in addition to your first-hand knowledge about taking care of individuals with a given health condition, you can also contribute second-hand knowledge about what it is like to live with that specific health condition.

Process of collaboration

The process of the assessment has two steps. Firstly, there is the **scoping phase**, where the population, intervention, comparators and outcomes (**PICO**) assessed are discussed and determined. Secondly, there is the **assessment** itself, where the evaluation is set and compiled in a report with clear sections regarding the technology assessed. You will be providing your input in the scoping phase so that it can be integrated in the development of the PICO.

Transparency is indispensable, so you will be asked about any potential conflicts of interest and to sign a document where these are stated in advance of participation. Funding sources of your patient organisation (if you belong to one) will be also taken into account. Confidentiality is another relevant aspect in the assessment and it will be a requirement. No individual names of patients will be mentioned and potential statements will be anonymised.

Feedback

Feedback is essential for improving our work. After your collaboration, you will be asked regarding your experience in the process and how do you think it could be better. Your opinion is relevant to increase the quality in HTA processes.

Some basic notions on the process of assessment and other administrative issues will be provided by the assessment team.

Methods of involvement

- ✓ ***Open call for patient input through patient organisations:*** EUnetHTA makes open calls looking for patient organisations that are willing to complete a patient input template, by providing a summarised view of its members. These organisations may contact you to collect your input.
- ✓ ***One-on-one conversation:*** You will be provided with questions in advance in your local language and participate in telephone calls. You will be provided with a summary of the conversation for your approval.
- ✓ ***Group conversations:*** in special cases, a conversation group could be made. This method consists of a group of patients with the same condition who are gathered in a meeting to discuss relevant experiences of living with the disease and if it is the case, experiences with the technology under assessment. An assessment team moderator is present to take notes, the results of which form a summary integrated into the assessment after your approval. You will be asked for consent in case the discussion is recorded.
- ✓ ***E meetings:*** in the scoping phase, you will attend an e-meeting with the assessment team to provide your input in the discussion about aspects on population, intervention, comparators and outcomes (PICO) that will be analysed in the assessment.

Any questions you have will be answered by the assessment team

- Additional information can be found at:

www.eunetha.eu

- Patient involvement:

https://www.eunethta.eu/stakeholders/patients/

- Our methodologies:

https://www.eunethta.eu/tools/

EUnetHTA
For a sustainable network on Health Technology Assessment in Europe
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EUnetHTA Assessments: Contributing to the improvement of healthcare systems in Europe in a reliable and transparent manner