EMA – EUnetHTA 21 Bilateral

Meeting minutes

31 March 2023
10:00-13:00 CEST

Facilitator: EUnetHTA 21 Secretariat (ZIN) **Type of meeting:** Virtual

Chair: Niklas Hedberg, TLV
Michael Berntgen, EMA

Attendees:

First name	Surname	Organisation	Country
Roisin	Adams	NCPE	Ireland
Einar	Andreassen	NIPHNO	Norway
Gaelle	Andriantafika	EMA	Netherlands
Valentina	Barbuto	DG SANTE	Belgium
Antje	Behring	G-BA	Germany
Rimma	Berenstein	G-BA	Germany
Michael	Berntgen	EMA	Netherlands
Annelie	Blumrich	G-BA	Germany
Laurent	Brassart	EMA	Netherlands
Andrea	Buzzi	EMA	Netherlands
Patrick	Celis	EMA	Netherlands
Francesca	Cerreta	EMA	Netherlands
Sara	Couto	INFARMED	Portugal
Irina	Cleemput	KCE	Belgium
Rudy	Dupree	ZIN	Netherlands
Maria	Eriksson	TLV	Sweden
Judith	Fernandez	HAS	France
Nico	Fischer	G-BA	Germany
Lise	Flaunoe	EMA	Netherlands
Emer	Fogarty	NCPE	Ireland
Leoš	Fuksa	SUKL	Slovakia
Margaret	Galbraith	HAS	France
Petra	Galusová	SUKL	Slovakia
Wim	Goettsch	ZIN	Netherlands
Marcus	Guardian	ZIN	Netherlands
Niklas	Hedberg	TLV	Sweden
Carla	Herberts	ZIN	Netherlands
Hanna	Iderberg	TLV	Sweden
Jelena	Ivanovic	EMA	Netherlands
Ruta	Janeckaite	DG SANTE	Belgium
Justė	Jurgutavičiūtė	ZIN	Netherlands
Corinne	Klop	ZIN	Netherlands
Kristina	Larsson	EMA	Netherlands
Marco	Marchetti	AIFA	Italy
Maria	Mavris	EMA	Netherlands
Amélie	Meillassoux-le cerf	HAS	France
Bruno	Miguel Nogueira Sepodes	EMA	Netherlands
Pier Paolo	Olimpieri	AIFA	Italy
Thorsten	Olski	EMA	Netherlands
Elias	Pean	EMA	Netherlands
Eleni	Pitta	AEMPS	Spain
Giovanni	Polimeni	AIFA	Italy
Caroline	Pothet	KCE	Belgium
Céline	Pouppez	KCE	Belgium

Sonia	Pulido Sanchez	AEMPS	Spain
Ilona	Reischl	EMA	Netherlands
Daniel	Reuter	G-BA	Germany
Hilde	Røshol	NOMA	Norway
Gonzalo	Ruiz Rocio	EMA	Netherlands
Stephanie	Said	G-BA	Germany
Hedi	Schelleman	ZIN	Netherlands
Capucine	SERAIN	HAS	France
Laura	Snyders	ZIN	Netherlands
Maija	Tarkkanen	FIMEA	Finland
Merle	Tenberg	ZIN	Netherlands
Steffen	Thirstrup	EMA	Netherlands
Camille	Thomassin	HAS	France
Luca	Tomassini	HAS	France
Jose	Valverde albacete	DG SANTE	Belgium
Spiros	Vamvakas	EMA	Netherlands
Marc	Van De Casteele	RIZIV-INAMI	Belgium
Beate	Wieseler	IQWiG	Germany
Claudia	Wild	AIHTA	Austria
Anne	Willemsen	ZIN	Netherlands

Minutes

Agenda item #1	Introduction of the day and adoption of the agenda	**Presenter:**	Niklas Hedberg, TLV Michael Berntgen, EMA

The chairs welcomed participants to the third bilateral under the Work Plan between EUnetHTA 21 and EMA. It is the 24th meeting EUnetHTA and EMA have had during the long-standing collaboration. The focus of today's meeting is on ATMPs.

The agenda was adopted without further changes.

Agenda item #2	Update from the European Commission / DG SANTE on activities related to EMA/EUnetHTA 21 cooperation	**Presenter:**	Valentina Barbuto

The EC reminded participants EUnetHTA 21 is a 2-year service contract, finalizing in September 2023. This service contract takes into account the significant progress in collaboration between regulators and HTA bodies over the past years.

An update was provided on the progress made in the rolling implementation plan for the HTAR: the call for the HTA stakeholder network is closed, preparatory work on the first Implementing Act is progressing, Subgroups are being established, and two EC funded projects on training of patient experts started in March 2023.

The importance of a close collaboration with EMA on the areas of cooperation for the new system was stressed, also after closing of EUnetHTA 21.

Agenda item #3	Update from the HTAR Coordination Group	**Presenter:**	Roisin Adams, NCPE

On March 20, the third HTA Coordination Group (CG) was held, in which terms of references for all four subgroups were agreed. Next steps are developing the work planning for the CG and the subgroups. It is intended to transit the relations built under EUnetHTA to the new HTAR system.

Six Implementing Acts are planned to be developed, of which one is specific to cooperation with the EMA.

Discussion
EMA is happy to hear plans from both EC and CG to work together in the transition phase to the HTAR application.

Agenda item #4	Discussion on evidence and uncertainties with ATMPs	**Presenter:**	Rimma Berenstein, G-BA Judith Fernandez, HAS Caroline Pothet, Rocio Gonzalo, Ilona Reischl, Carla Herberts EMA

Prior to today's bilateral, a workshop was held between EMA/CAT and HTA bodies on an ATMP with Marketing Authorisation, to exchange experiences and challenges in the regulatory and HTA review and related PLEG discussions. Today, the key highlights of the regulatory review outcome of this product, which is an extension of indication, and an update of the PLEG discussions were presented.

G-BA (Germany) and HAS (France) presented considerations on ATMPs from an HTA perspective, which are around the limited comparative evidence at the time of HTA, high uncertainties and the implementation of prospective PLEG requirements. Additionally, a summary of national PICO, HTA outcome and PLEG proposal were presented by the two agencies.

Discussion
The product specific webinars are welcomed by EMA and HTA bodies, as they enhance a better understanding of the regulatory assessment and key considerations in the decision-making. Lessons learned from this product specific webinar translate into opportunities for cooperation on upcoming ATMPs and PLEG.

The discussion evolved around the time point for starting these discussions on PLEG requirements and that an early collaboration is relevant to avoid duplication of data collections. Ideally this should be presented by the developer as part of the overall development package ahead of the initial licensing/launch, to reflect the life-cycle approach to evidence generation and how uncertainties are being addressed over time. Further it was pointed out that, whilst product specific interactions are relevant, it also is helpful to discuss PLEG requirements in a class of products.

Areas of cooperation are around improving the information provided in the EPAR with regard to the rationale for wording of the therapeutic indication, methodological aspects in relation to the evaluation ofindirect comparisons, and exchange of information on requirements for the applications of ATMP with regard to necessary risk minimization measures, specific patient groups and medical qualifications.

Action Points:

Action Point	*Who*	*When*
Identify early further products (with expected Marketing Authorisation) for webinar between EMA and HTA, in the field of ATMP	EMA	May 2023
Explore how to continue this collaboration and webinars on a voluntary basis in the interim period	EMA and EUnetHTA 21	Q3 2023
Arrange a deep-dive discussion between regulators and HTAs on the use of Indirect Treatment Comparisons	EUnetHTA	Q3 2023
Explore options for early exchange on PLEG and survey the general HTA requirements for PLEG	EMA	Q4 2023

Agenda item #5 Experience with the EUnetHTA 21 PICO survey **Presenter:** Antje Behring, G-BA Elias Pean, Gaelle Andriantafika, Michael Berntgen EMA

The purpose of the scoping process by means of a PICO development was explained, followed by a description of EUnetHTA 21's scoping guideline. EUnetHTA 21 did not get a pharmaceutical compound submitted for a JCA production, so to pilot the scoping guideline several PICO exercises are being conducted. Also a few examples were presented regarding a change of approved indication compared to claimed indication.

Discussion
The more precise the indication is, the easier it is for HTA to identify the right population. Experience from the PICO exercises shows that, in an attempt to anticipate potential label changes, As described in the scoping guideline, the consolidation phase is used to discuss and clarify PICO requests with the specific HTA bodies The PICO survey is online for 14 calendar days. EUnetHTA 21 experienced that a notification period is crucial, to allow HTA bodies enough time to prepare the national process for developing their specific PICO requests.

This experience also informs future modes of collaboration and interaction between HTA and EMA, e.g. on change of indication and regulatory timelines.

Action Points:

Action Point	*Who*	*When*
Set up an educational session with EMA on the PICO consolidation process	EUnetHTA 21	Q3 2023

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Agenda item #6 Recent initiatives for collaboration with academic ATMP developers **Presenter:** a) Céline Pouppez, KCE b) Caroline Pothet, EMA

#6a) Belgian project on academic developed use of ATMPs

KCE presented their planned study on academically-developed cell therapies. More information can be found in the whitepaper here.

#6b) Academic Support Pilot for ATMPs

EMA presented their academic support pilot for ATMPs, launched in September 2022, intended to support up to 5 ATMPs developed by academic developers. More information can be found on the EMA website here.

Agenda item #7 Work plan and its process for monitoring progress **Presenter:** a) Anne Willemsen, ZIN
b) Naomi Fujita-Rohwerder, IQWIG
c) Stephanie Said, G-BA

#7a) status update work plan
The joint work plan, which was published in March 2022, follows the request from the EC to establish this work plan. The activities on the work plan are based on priorities identified during the concluding of the previous work plan at the end of EUnetHTA Joint Action 3 (May 2021). Additionally, the activities on the work plan connect to the deliverables from EUnetHTA 21.

Items are progressing well, thanks to the work of all topic leads.

#7b) addition of Medical Device items
In the bilateral, the two additional MD related activities are accepted to be added to the publicly available work plan, replacing the work plan item on companion diagnostics. The amended work plan is available here.

#7c) future plans for JSC in the interim period
In the interim period, after closure of EUnetHTA 21 and before the application of the HTAR, it is planned to conduct voluntary EMA-HTA body parallel scientific advices, coordinated by G-BA. The output of these advices are individual HTA body advice and it should be initiated based on the applicants initiative and available resources at the HTA bodies. More details on the process will be communicated publicly.

Agenda item #8 Closure of the meeting **Presenter:** Michael Berntgen, EMA
Niklas Hedberg, TLV

The chairs of the meeting thank the attendees and closes the meeting.