

4th Meeting of the Member State Coordination Group on HTA (HTACG)

13 June 2023, Brussels

Flash report

The fourth meeting of the Member State Coordination Group on Health Technology Assessment (HTACG) set up by Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 was held on 13 June 2023 in Brussels.

The meeting was chaired by Roisín Adams (National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics, Ireland), and co-chaired by Marco Marchetti (National Agency for Regional Healthcare Services, Italy) and Niklas Hedberg (Dental and Pharmaceuticals Benefits Agency, Sweden).

The agenda was approved without changes and the summary minutes of the third meeting of the HTACG on 20 March 2023 were approved. The Chairs and Co-chairs of the four subgroups were invited to this meeting in view of the agenda point on the provisional work programme for 2023/2024.

The meeting covered the following points:

1) Debrief from subgroups' meetings

DG SANTE summarised the outcome of the four subgroup meetings that took place in April and May. The EUnetHTA 21 service contract and its deliverables were presented in the Methodology subgroup, the Joint Clinical Assessment subgroup and the Joint Scientific Consultations subgroup. The Emerging Health Technology subgroup identified priority topics for the 2023-2024 period. All subgroups prepared workplans that were submitted to the HTA Coordination Group and fed into the development of the provisional work programme.

2) Medical Devices under the HTA Regulation

The regulatory framework for the joint work concerning medical devices and in vitro medical devices was presented by DG SANTE. Members discussed the selection criteria as well as the relation between the implementing acts and the work to be done within the HTA Coordination Group and its subgroups. The scope as well as the timelines were briefly discussed. It was agreed that further discussion on this point, including in relation to voluntary cooperation and cooperation with European Medicines Agency and the Medical Devices Coordination Group, would be included in the agenda of the next meeting.

3) Work Programme 2023-2024 and strategic direction for the work of the Coordination Group and its subgroups

The Chair introduced the draft provisional work programme for 2023 to 2024 that was based on the HTA Regulation and on input from the subgroups. It was highlighted that the subgroups will be instrumental to carry out the work defined in the work programme, under strategic direction of the Coordination Group. Specific tasks for the subgroups were discussed, including balancing the workload across the subgroups, and procedures for interaction between subgroups and with the HTA Coordination Group. The provisional work programme was adopted as a living document. The details of specific tasks will be further refined by the joint Chairs in their next meeting and discussed at the next HTA Coordination Group meeting.

4) Reflection on the main elements of the first implementing act on joint clinical assessment of medicinal products

The HTA Coordination Group discussed the main steps and actors of the JCA procedure. Members highlighted the importance of a clearly defined timeline for the JCA process and the interaction with the European Medicines Agency during the marketing authorisation process. Members highlighted the importance on leveraging the work done in other areas with regard to selection of experts for the joint work e.g. within the work of EUnetHTA21 and EMA. Members were reminded that the Comitology Committee will formally examine the text of the implementing acts.

5) Reflection on the exchange with the HTA Stakeholder Network

DG SANTE presented the agenda of the meeting with the HTA Stakeholder Network planned for 14 June 2023 and the draft Terms of Reference. This first joint meeting is a good opportunity for the HTA Coordination Group and sub-group chairs and co-chairs to meet the stakeholder organisations. The focus will be on presenting the implementation of the HTA regulation and to identify the most effective means of working together.

6) Other information points including HAG, IT Platform and Technical Support Instrument

The Heads of HTA Agencies Group informed the HTA Coordination Group about their latest activities. The Commission informed the HTA Coordination Group about the latest updates on the HTA IT platform. DG REFORM presented the Technical Support Instrument which provides support to Member States in capacity building and reforms.

The next meeting of the HTACG is planned for 25 September 2023 in Brussels.