



5th Meeting of the Member State Coordination Group on HTA (HTACG)

25 September 2023, Brussels

Flash report

The fifth meeting of the Member State Coordination Group on Health Technology Assessment (HTACG) set up by Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 was held on 25 September 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 fourth meeting of the HTACG on 13 June 2023 were approved. The Chairs and Co-chairs of the four subgroups were invited to the meeting.

The meeting covered the following points:

1) Debrief from subgroups' meetings

The Chairs and Co-chairs of the subgroups informed the Coordination Group about the ongoing discussions and work in their respective subgroups.

2) Information on the status of the first implementing act on Joint Clinical Assessment (JCA) of medicinal products

The Commission informed about the first meeting of the HTA Committee which was held on 15 September 2023. The HTA Committee adopted its rules of procedure and exchanged views on the implementing act on Joint Clinical Assessment of medicinal products. The draft text of the act will be shared with the HTA Committee in advance of its next meeting, which is planned for mid-October.

3) EU legislative framework on medical devices under the HTA Regulation

The Commission presented the implementation of the EU legislation on medical devices, and its relevance to the HTA Regulation.

The Co-Chair of the Coordination Group led a discussion on the timelines for the joint work on medical devices, the availability of evidence and the selection of medical devices subject to Joint Clinical Assessment and Joint Scientific Consultation. Considering the comments made during the discussion, the Co-Chair concluded that more information was needed on the workload of the sub-groups, therefore, a final decision on timelines and scope of related joint work would be made at the next Coordination Group meeting.

4) Scope of the first report on emerging health technologies

The Chair of the Emerging Health Technologies subgroup presented proposals and requested guidance from the Coordination Group regarding the scope and content of the first report on emerging health technologies. Following exchange of views, the Coordination Group concluded that, in early 2024, an initial quantitative report would be produced estimating the number of upcoming new oncology products and ATMPs. The Coordination Group highlighted the importance of the methodological approach to the horizon scanning process and requested a broader report on emerging health technologies for 2024. The Coordination Group advised to consider therapeutic areas as well as other qualitative aspects for the report.

5) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) between the HTACG and its subgroups

The draft SOPs prepared by the joint Chairs and co-Chairs of the subgroups were sent to the subgroup members ahead of the Coordination Group meeting and comments were received from several Member States. The subgroups will further discuss the draft in October, taking into account comments and finalising the draft for adoption by Coordination Group at the next meeting.

6) Work Programme 2023-2024 for HTACG and subgroups

The Co-Chair of the Coordination Group called upon the Coordination group and Chairs and Co-chairs of the subgroups to signal any potential changes that might require a modification of the Work Programme 2023-2024. Updates were requested on the timing of the guidelines on the appointment of assessor and co-assessor and the timing of the guidelines on scoping of Joint Clinical Assessments.

7) Information points on the EUnetHTA21 Consortium, Heads of HTA Agencies Group, IT platform and the HTA Stakeholder Network

The EUnetHTA21 Consortium concluded its work, and its deliverables would be available to the Coordination Group and its subgroups on the HTA IT platform. The website of EUnetHTA21 will stay online for a limited amount of time.

The Heads of HTA Agencies Group informed the HTA Coordination Group about their latest activities, including looking into longer term perspectives on HTA.

Regarding the HTA IT platform, the Commission informed members about the imminent launch of the platform, and arrangements to provide training to Coordination Group and subgroups members on the use of the platform.

The Commission informed about the first meeting of the HTA Stakeholder Network held in Brussels on 14 June and presented the follow-up actions. The next meeting of the HTA Stakeholder Network is planned for 17 November 2023.

The next meeting of the HTA Coordination Group is planned for 16 November 2023 in Brussels.