



**Sixth Meeting for Joint Scientific Consultations (JSCs) subgroup  
of the Member State Coordination Group on HTA  
20 March 2024**

**Summary Minutes**

The sixth meeting of the Subgroup for Joint Scientific Consultations (JSCs) of the Member State Coordination Group on Health Technology Assessment (HTACG) was held on 20 March 2024 online. Representatives from 18 EU Member States participated, as well as Norway in an observer capacity.

The sixth meeting was chaired by Stephanie Said (Germany) and Sonia Pulido Sanchez (Spain).

**The agenda of the meeting and the summary minutes of the fifth meeting of the JSC Subgroup on 21 February 2024 were approved.**

The Chair informed the subgroup of the results of the assessment of the conflict of interest by the Commission for the purpose of the meeting. The Chair asked the participants for any relevant update on the declarations of interest and none was received.

The meeting covered the following points:

**Updates – Information points**

The subgroup was updated on the discussions held at the Coordination Group meeting on 8 March 2024, in particular on the adoption of the first guidance documents on direct and indirect comparisons; on the HTA IT platform, about the status of the development of the workflows; and on the parallel scientific advice for the interim period, where two procedures were accepted and one new application was recently received. An update on the guidance on the appointment of assessors and co-assessors was also provided, in particular on the fact that it is still object to internal discussions as many points are dependent on the final operational model and adoption of the implementing act on joint clinical assessment.

**Updates – Working groups**

Working groups kicked off mid-March on preparatory work for both medicinal products and medical devices. Working methods, as well as broad timelines and next steps for the adoption of all documents by end 2024 were detailed.

The subgroup agreed on the interaction with the Methodological and Procedural Subgroup for the approval of the (procedural) guidance and documents on standard operating procedures, namely on a second review round and final validation done in parallel in both subgroups.

Following the request of the Coordination Group Chair, the subgroup also pre-identified a list of documents for proposed targeted consultation with the Stakeholder Network, including the format and template of the submission requests by health technology developers and the guidance for the selection of joint scientific consultations. Possible modalities for the involvement were also discussed and will be proposed to the Coordination Group.

### **Procedural guidance on JSCs**

Germany and France provided an overview of the progress achieved within EUnetHTA 21 and Joint Action 3 on the procedural guidance for joint scientific consultations of medicines and medical devices (the “early dialogues”), outlining the content of the existing guidance documents, their guiding principles, the different actors and scope, as well as the process and timelines.

### **Standard Operating Procedures for JSCs**

Germany presented the advancements made within EUnetHTA 21 about the internal standard operating procedures for joint scientific consultations, delineating in particular the roles and responsibilities of all actors and the timelines of the process.

### **Identification of emerging health technologies: focus on JSC**

The Chair and Co-Chair of the Emerging Health Technologies Subgroup were invited to the meeting to explain the work done in the subgroup and gather feedback on data needs for joint scientific consultations. The JSC subgroup proposed to involve the Stakeholder Network to gather additional information on the most innovative medicines and medical devices for possible joint scientific consultations. Several countries also highlighted the importance of request periods and selection of joint scientific consultations, as joint scientific consultations constitute a complex and early setting, and they are not directly predictable through horizon scanning activities. A short deadline for further feedback on horizon scanning needs will be opened after the meeting.

### **Closing of the meeting**

The Chair concluded the meeting by summarising the planning for document production in the subgroup.

The next JSC subgroup meeting will take place on 19 April in Brussels (hybrid).