



8th Meeting of the Member State Coordination Group on HTA (HTACG)

8 March 2024, Brussels

Flash report

The eighth meeting of the Member State Coordination Group on Health Technology Assessment (HTACG) set up by Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 was held on 8 March 2024 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 Chairs and Co-chairs of the four subgroups attended the meeting.

Marco Marsella, Director for Digital, EU4Health, Health Systems modernisation of DG SANTE welcomed the participants and emphasised the importance of effective cooperation for the timely implementation of the regulation.

The agenda was approved with one minor change and the summary minutes of the seventh meeting of the HTACG on 1 February 2024 were approved.

The meeting covered the following points:

1) Guidance on direct and indirect comparisons

The Chair of the subgroup for methodological and procedural guidance presented the work of the subgroup on two guidance documents: Methodological Guideline for Quantitative Evidence Synthesis: Direct and Indirect Comparisons; and Practical Guideline for Quantitative Evidence Synthesis: Direct and Indirect Comparisons. The two documents were submitted to the HTACG for adoption. The HTACG adopted the two guidance documents by consensus, and they will be published shortly on the Commission's HTA website on the Europa portal.

2) Preliminary information on emerging health technologies

The Chair of the subgroup for the identification of emerging health technologies presented preliminary quantitative information concerning the estimated number of medicinal products falling under the scope of the HTA Regulation as of January 2025. The HTACG also highlighted the importance of knowing the names of products to further aid planning. The implementing act on the exchange of information with the EMA will be important in this regard. The sub-group will continue to use existing horizon scanning systems for their work.

3) Voluntary cooperation

The Co-chair informed that eight countries expressed interest in forming an interest group to discuss voluntary cooperation. The interest group would look at some general rules for the voluntary

cooperation, support functions for the voluntary work, possible connections to the existing networks of Member States engaged in voluntary cooperation as well as possible areas of voluntary cooperation. The interest group will report back to the HTACG in due course.

4) Support of the Stakeholder Network to the HTACG

The Chair invited members to reflect on how stakeholders could be further engaged in the joint work, including possible consultations on guidance documents in preparation. The HTACG agreed on the importance to maintain an active dialogue with the stakeholders network, while acknowledging the tight timelines for the work to be undertaken in 2024, therefore a pragmatic approach was advised. The pragmatic approach should take into account whether previous consultations have taken place under EuNetHTA21. Where no previous consultation has taken place, the HTACG will undertake some targeted consultations with the HTA Stakeholder Network.

5) Work Programme for 2025

A first discussion took place on how to shape the Work Programme for 2025. The HTACG highlighted the need to focus on the mandatory work. A draft will be presented for further discussion at the next meeting.

6) Information points

The Chairs and Co-chairs of the four subgroups informed the HTACG about the ongoing discussions and work in their respective subgroups which meet monthly.

The HTACG Chair and Co-chair gave an update about planning for joint clinical assessment of medicinal products and planning for the joint work on medical devices, including feedback from meetings with various stakeholders and with the European Medicines Agency.

The Heads of HTA Agencies Group (HAG) informed the HTACG about its recent and upcoming activities. The Commission gave an update about recent technical developments of the HTA IT Platform. An information point was made about representation of the HTACG in external meetings and conferences.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the HTACG is planned for 10 June 2024 in Brussels in hybrid format, followed by the HTA Stakeholder Network meeting on 11 June.