



**Fifth Meeting for Joint Scientific Consultations subgroup  
of the Member State Coordination Group on HTA  
21 February 2024**

**Summary Minutes**

The fifth meeting of the Subgroup for Joint Scientific Consultations (JSCs) of the Member State Coordination Group on Health Technology Assessment (HTACG) was held on 21 February 2024 online. Representatives from 21 EU Member States participated, as well as Norway in an observer capacity.

The meeting was chaired by Stephanie Said (Federal Joint Committee, Germany).

**The agenda of the meeting and the summary minutes of the fourth meeting of the JSC subgroup on 13 December 2023 were approved with no changes.**

The Chair presented the status of the assessment of the Declarations of Interests submitted by the appointed representatives/alternates in the JSC subgroup: in DG SANTE assessment, none of the declared interests merit the exclusion of the representatives/alternates from the participation in the meeting regarding any agenda item.

The subgroup was updated on the discussions held at the last HTACG meeting on 1 February 2024, on the recent developments to the HTA IT platform and on the parallel advice during the interim period. On the latter, two procedures for oncology products were accepted.

**Estimation of working hours per JSC and JSC capacities**

The subgroup held a follow-up discussion on the working hours needed to conduct a JSC, following the feedback received after the last meeting. The current estimates point to a range of 20-25 working days for assessors and co-assessors and this information will be shared with the HTACG at their next meeting on 8 March 2024. These calculations may be refined over time.

The subgroup also discussed the capacities and application of the selection criteria for JSCs to the work foreseen in 2025. A survey may be shared as soon as appropriate to gather additional feedback on this point.

**Update on Guidance on the appointment of assessors and co-assessors**

The Chair presented the status of the guidance on the appointment of assessors and co-assessors. Representatives reflected, for example, on how assessors and co-assessors will organise the work on JSCs in the subgroup and shared some initial reflections on the access rights to the different documents within

the HTA IT Platform. A follow-up discussion with DG SANTE will be organised to clarify some of the remaining issues on the operational model and, afterwards, the guidance will be updated and reviewed again.

#### **Election of the Co-Chair of the JSC subgroup**

Sonia Pulido Sánchez (Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices, Spain) was elected as Co-chair of the JSC Subgroup.

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

The point was postponed to the next meeting.

#### **JSC on medical devices**

The Chair provided an update on the regular meetings with the Secretariat of the Expert Panels at EMA. The discussion focused on planning the next steps: first, gaining experience on the procedures for HTA bodies through the interim advice window provided by G-BA in 2024, possibly also on medical devices; second, organising the details of the participation of HTA bodies as observers to the Expert Panels' pilot on scientific advice to manufacturers from September 2024; third, start JSCs under the HTA Regulation from mid-2025.

#### **Finalisation of working group formation and first timeline estimates**

The Chair thanked all volunteers from Member States and observer countries for their commitment to provide availabilities for the work on the ten JSCs procedural documents as well as template documents to be finalised by the JSC subgroup and adopted by the HTACG by the end of 2024. Overall, four countries volunteered to lead the work on the different documents, and ten countries volunteered as dedicated reviewers.

The kick-off meetings for the different working groups will be starting in March, with the first discussions to be held at the JSC subgroup meeting in April.

#### **Closing of the meeting**

The Chair and co-Chair thanked all the representatives, as well as the EC Secretariat, for their involvement in the meeting and its preparation.

The next JSC subgroup meeting is planned for 20 March 2024 in virtual format.