

WHAT IS AN HTA?

Health technology assessment (HTA) is a holistic, multidisciplinary process that evaluates the social, economic, and ethical impacts of health technologies (Ciani and Jommi, 2014).

Health technologies are considered to be any sort of medical intervention (drugs, vaccines, medical devices, etc.)



HTA bodies perform health technology assessments (HTA). Depending on the specific purpose of the HTA bodies, criteria may vary, but generally, all HTA bodies consider the **clinical effectiveness** and **cost-effectiveness** of the particular drug, medical device, etc.

COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS:

A term commonly used by HTA agencies to compare the effectiveness of new interventions against those that are already in the market. For example, an HTA agency might compare the effectiveness of two different asthma medications and determine whether the drug is fairly priced or if its price should be lowered depending on a variety of factors such as clinical trial data, benefits to patients and caregivers, and overall benefits to society as a whole.

HOW MUCH POWER DO HTA BODIES HAVE?



HTA bodies can determine market access for a particular medication in countries that have nationalized health plans. Some HTAs determine whether a medication has enough value to warrant entry to the market based on its evidence and cost.



Many developed countries have a national HTA agency to broadly evaluate and regulate the cost of health technologies; the United States does not.

- Canada's HTA bodies is called Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
- India's HTA agency is called the Health Technology Assessment in India (HTAI) which is under the Department of Health Research
- The U.K.'s HTA agency is called the National Institute for Health Care Excellence (NICE)
- The USA does have a few non-governmental quasi-HTA bodies such as the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review but they do not have the same regulatory power.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Many HTA bodies regularly solicit patient and caregiver experiences. You can find the HTA body in your country and contact them, but other locations have structured instructions on how to get involved. **See examples below:**

[EUPATI's Toolbox for Patient Engagement in HTAs](#)
[ICER's Patient Portal](#)