



Health Technology
Assessment international

HTAi New Interest Group Proposal & Funding Form, Fall 2015

Submitters Name

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Email

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Proposed Interest Group Name

Vaccines HTA

Please provide a vision statement & description of the proposed new IG.

Vision

To promote and develop the interdisciplinary assessment of vaccination programmes in a consistent, comprehensive manner to produce relevant, open and transparent assessments that inform policy making and improve population health.

Description

Vaccines are unique health technologies that are preventative in nature, not only preventing illness in the individual, but often protecting communities from infection. Their effectiveness depends on the organization of a successful vaccination program that invites the right population in a manner that will maximize uptake. Hence vaccines have specific assessment challenges that are not seen with any other form of health technology – in the assessment of long term effectiveness, economic modelling, and analysis of organizational issues and community views within an ethical framework. As the global health benefits of vaccines are clear, but there are also potential harms in a population that do not have the disease, there is a real impetus among all stakeholders to improve the assessment of vaccines by sharing and developing methods of assessment that are robust and efficient.

HTAi 2015 saw the first discussion of the specific issues of vaccines assessment by the HTAi community. A panel including a leading European policy maker, public health physician, HTA doers and industry was well attended and as a result of the discussion an HTAi Interest Sub-Group for Vaccines HTA was proposed. **A full write-up of the panel is attached.**

Describe the area of interest of the proposed new IG.

For your reference, board policy criteria for a new IG asks that there is interest in the subject to be addressed by the IG amongst a range of individuals in the membership; and the proposed focus area of the IG is not addressed by an existing IG.

Those interested in this IG

To prepare for HTAi 2015 panel on vaccines assessment a number interested individuals were contacted and a meeting was held after the HTAi panel **(report attached)** to develop the ideas for this Interest Group (IG) proposal. This engagement led to useful discussions and identification of interested individuals, so a network is already formed.

This proposal was prepared by Karen Facey and sent for comment to all interest individuals, several of whom provided helpful comment and suggested papers that the group should consider identifying the range of vaccines assessment approaches internationally and new research that is being started to address issues relating to citizen involvement.

Appendix 1 presents the wide range of HTAi members who have endorsed this proposal for an HTAi Interest Sub-Group in Vaccines HTA. In addition to HTAi members, leading policy makers in clinical immunization networks, regulation and at the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control are interested but are not able to formally “endorse” the proposal but would be willing to contribute presentations and discussion to future meetings.

Focus of the IG

Issues relating to vaccines cover all countries and having a particular importance for developing countries and global health. There is a need to develop and promote robust assessment of vaccines to inform policy makers’ decisions about vaccination programs, sharing good practices in vaccines assessment, encouraging alignment of assessment processes, considering issues of transferability, stakeholder involvement and the underpinning ethical dilemmas associated with vaccination.

This HTAi IG for Vaccines HTA would provide a vehicle to develop a network that is already emerging as a result of the HTAi 2015 meeting. It would seek to engage all stakeholders and work internationally.

Specific areas that would be addressed by this IG and that are not addressed by

other IGs include:

- Gathering together of key references about vaccines assessment for the HTAi Portal and to share among members (this has already started)
- Consideration of existing models for HTA and whether they are suitable for vaccines, then if needed, development of an ideal HTA model for vaccines assessment, for example including wider organizational and public issues within an ethical context
- Documentation of methods for vaccines HTA, creation of checklists to help assessment where good methods exist, development of new methods as needed:
 - Assessment of clinical effectiveness given requirement for long-term community prevention of disease
 - Economic modelling for decisions on establishment and extension of vaccination programs
 - Analytical processes to determine organizational issues that will impact the operation of the vaccination program
 - Qualitative research processes to elicit community views about vaccine acceptability through traditional research and social media to address issues of the public good, safety, incentives, etc
 - A framework for assessing ethical aspects of vaccines programs.

This work would link with other HTAi IGs addressing the challenges of ethics, patient/citizen involvement, public health, developing countries, information resources and regulatory/CED. It would also seek to continue the engagement with leaders in other vaccines' policy agencies that has already been established, including regulators, transnational centers for disease prevention and control, public health associations, networks of immunization advisory groups and WHO.

Leadership

Please note the names and contact information of those proposing the new IG.

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has developed this proposal on a voluntary basis with input from those shown in the Appendix.

Several have been involved in a workshop submission at HTAI 2016 in Tokyo (attached). This has been accepted and will be the first face to face meeting of the IG.

Teleconferences will be held in January – April 2016 with all interested parties to discuss early plans and develop IG governance, including identification of those likely to be active to form a Steering Committee.

2015/16 Summary of Future Activities

Please provide a summary of proposed activities for this new IG.

Proposed activities for 2015/2016:

1. Agreement of Terms of Reference – building on that used by the HTAi IG for Patient/Citizen Involvement
2. Development of HTAi website
 - General introduction
 - Sharing of recent reports on vaccines methods and policy and reports of HTAi sessions with HTAi Vortal
 - Notification of upcoming meetings relating to vaccines assessment
3. Quarterly email updates to members
4. Workshop at HTAi 2016 to identify challenges that the HTAi IG can address and agree working practices (May 2016)
5. Development of a work program and identification of willing volunteers to lead work and be involved
6. Recruitment of members

Please estimate the frequency of meetings/year for this new IG:

In Person : 0-2

Conference call: 5-10

Please estimate the number of IG members expected:

55-100 or 101-200 ??

Request for Funding

HTAi will review funding requests for Interest Groups in Fall 2015.

Please complete the following portion of the application if your IG is requesting financial support for a Meeting/ Project/Research/Technology/Other.

If you have more than one request for funding please submit them separately. See below for added sections.

Activities

Funding Request 1 Amount

Workshop fees for approximately 30 people attending the workshop in Tokyo.