What is health technology assessment?

Health technology assessment, or HTA, is the systematic evaluation of a health technology (e.g. a medicine, device, diagnostic test, vaccine) to inform decision making in healthcare, such as on access to and reimbursement for. This includes an assessment of how well a health technology works compared to the current standard of care; it may assess its value for money and it should consider other issues such as organisational, legal, ethical and social issues.

Our HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement in HTA Interest Group was established in 2005 to engage all stakeholders in the development of initiatives to promote and improve patient and citizen involvement

We aim to:

- Promote and develop robust methodologies to incorporate patients’ perspectives in HTAs and share best practice in patient and citizen involvement in the HTA process
- Strengthen HTA by systematic incorporation of patient perspectives
- Support countries with limited experience of HTA in involving the patient and citizen perspective

Our vision is that: Patient and citizen perspectives improve HTA globally
We set out to:

Promote ways in which patients’ needs, perspectives and preferences can be incorporated into HTAs
- via submissions of information from patients that will make a difference to decision makers
- enabling effective patient participation in HTA processes (based on core values of legitimacy, equity, mutual respect)

Promote and develop methods to elicit citizen or public views and determination of societal values to inform all aspects of HTA

Promote the synthesis of patient and public perspectives on the condition and technologies being studied

Measure the impact of patient and citizen engagement in HTA

Our present objectives:

To encourage the use and continuing development of tools to support those involved in HTA to engage patients and citizens in HTA and patient organisations, such as:
- Values and Standards for patient involvement
- Templates for patient input into HTA
- Guidance on providing patient input
- Important questions that are asked about Patient and Citizen Involvement
- Health Equality Europe ‘Understanding HTA’ Guide (English, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin, Polish, Greek)
- HTAi Consumer and Patient Glossary for HTA (English, Greek)
- Good practice examples
- A bibliography

To participate in development of materials that reflect best practices in elicitation and presentation of patients’ perspectives from global good practice models, support provided by PCISG members and research and in patient engagement in the HTA process

To encourage sharing of good practice

Available at: www.htai.org/index.php?id=744

Our ways of working:

The Interest Group has a Steering Committee that drives work forward and is responsible for the governance of the group. It has three Working Groups:
- Patient involvement and education; with an Asia Pacific region sub-group
- Patient issues: methods and impact
- Citizen and community involvement

The Interest Group meets face-to-face at the HTAi Annual Meeting in June every year. Travel grants are available for selected members of patient organisations who wish to attend the Annual Meeting. A call for submissions for this grant is made in January.

To join:

If you would like to join the Interest Group and sign up for the e-bulletin, please contact the HTAi Secretariat at hta@htai.org