

## HTA 101: Moving Together Towards Universal Health Care

02 Dec 2020 (Session 1: Academe)

9:00 - 11:00 AM | Zoom webinar: <https://bit.ly/HTA101-Session1>

### Questions from Zoom

#### Questions for Dr. Anna Melissa S. Guerrero - Overview of HTA in the Philippines

<b>Name of Attendee</b> <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Donna Gaviola <i>(NTP)</i>	Are softwares/IT products considered as health technology?	Per AO 2020-0041 on pages 4-5, other health technologies refers to a wide range of healthcare products, packages, or systems used to influence health management of a disease or condition by 1) improving access to data or service, or 2) increasing efficiency or impact of the delivery of intended intervention. These include software and applications, electronic platforms and interventions, telecommunication platforms and interventions, artificial intelligence and machine learning systems.
Cedric Ben Gayares <i>(University of the Philippines System TTBD0)</i>	Are COVID disinfection technologies included in HTA scope?	Disinfection technologies are included under COVID-19 topics for assessment.

<p>Charlie Suarez (DLSU Manila)</p>	<p>If we will apply for PNF Exclusion or inclusion, does this mean we will now have to undergo HTA? Are the PNDF forms now obsolete? What should we do to apply for exclusion and inclusion for PNF?</p>	<p>Per Department Circular No. 2020-0011 dated 22 January 2020, (<i>Non-acceptance of requests for exemption from the Philippine National Formulary</i>) requests for exemption are no longer accepted. New topic nominations and inclusion applications in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF) shall undergo HTA. The HTA Council has issued new forms for all health technologies including drugs for inclusion in the PNDF. Application forms for inclusion of medicines for PNF listing are provided in the Philippine HTA Process Guide accessible through this link: <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/philippine-hta-process-guide/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/philippine-hta-process-guide/</a></p>
<p>Joana Michelle Aniago (PNRI)</p>	<p>May I ask if we submit HTA for in vivo diagnostics which core will assess the application?</p>	<p>Dr. Guerrero: Yes, in-vivo diagnostics are part of the scope of HTA. They are assessed first by the Subcommittee on Devices before they go through the HTAC Core Committee.</p> <p>Alternatively, in vivo diagnostics involving medical procedures may be jointly assessed with the Subcommittee on Medical and Surgical Procedures.</p>
<p>Maria Fatima Villena (Center for Policy Studies and Advocacy on Sustainable Development)</p>	<p>How about knowledge-based technologies (e.g., Health promotion/ prevention campaigns - they are not tangible products/ devices per se), are they included in the assessment</p>	<p>Dr. Guerrero: If they require public funding, they will have to undergo HTA. As defined, public health interventions are also health technologies. They are assessed in a different way compared to drugs using different study designs and measures of outcome.</p>
<p>Cedric Ben Gayares (University of the Philippines System TTBD0)</p>	<p>Who are the contacts for capacity building activities in HTA?</p>	<p>Dr. Guerrero: You may email the HTA Unit at <a href="mailto:hta@doh.gov.ph">hta@doh.gov.ph</a> for opportunities for training in HTA. We have partnerships right now with some development partners, but we are working on developing formal courses with some local academic partners.</p>
<p>Joseph Mercado (Boehringer-Ingelheim Philippines)</p>	<p>Can you share timelines on when this new process will be implemented?</p>	<p>Dr. Guerrero: The process for new health technologies being contemplated for future health benefit packages of PhilHealth will really apply in 2022. For now, the HTAC work is focused on</p>

		COVID-19 health technologies in response to the pandemic and mandates under the UHC law, such as the review of existing benefit packages of DOH and PhilHealth and the primary care benefit.
Rhoda Lumang-ay (SLU)	In case we will be conducting study in the academe, what could possibly be the possible topics/ path we should take to be of help?	Dr. Guerrero: For now, the Council is focused on COVID-19 health technologies. We will soon establish a system with DOST for commissioning topics.  This system will organize an HTA research network where local and international universities, NGOs and professional societies could be part of evidence generation groups conducting health technology assessments through commissioned research.
Jacklyn Risia San Gabriel (Young Pharmacist Group)	Does DOH have plans to apply barcode medication administration in DOH accredited hospitals to ensure patient identification accuracy and minimize medication errors and better recording and reporting of adverse drug events?	The Council has no pending assessment regarding this health technology. You may coordinate with the appropriate DOH Office who can address your concerns and nominate this topic.
	Has HTAC approved or recommended a diagnostic, medical device or drug to date?	The Council has recommended the use of the different health technologies to policy-makers based on the conducted assessments. You may access the rapid reviews and evidence summaries through our website at <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/assessments/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/assessments/</a> .
Al Serafica (National Academy of Science and Technology)	What are the minimum requirements for an individual to join the HTAC?	Dr. Guerrero: The minimum requirements include 1) training in the relevant discipline 2) academic and professional integrity 3) publication/s 4) willingness to disclose COI
Jean Marie Ahorro	In the case of IV Na Valproate (generic), all	Dr. Guerrero: Please write a letter to the HTA Unit at

<i>(Philippine Children's Medical Center)</i>	it's other SKUs are already in the PNF. Right now, only IV Valproic Acid is approved in the PNF but has been pulled out of the market. How can we seek for it's inclusion since this is an important drug for management of acute repetitive seizures? Two years is quite long to wait for it's inclusion.	<a href="mailto:hta@doh.gov.ph">hta@doh.gov.ph</a> . For minor applications (i.e., new dosage strength, net content, immediate packaging), we have a quicker process.
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<b>Questions for Dr. Katherine Ann V. Reyes - AO 2020-0041</b>		
<b>Name of Attendee</b> <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<i>Jean Marie Ahorro</i> <i>(Philippine Children's Medical Center)</i>	How do we go about having a drug approved for inclusion in the PNF?	<p>In compliance to Department Circular 2020-0010 or <i>New Topic Nomination for Health Technology Assessment</i>, the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB) shall act as the initial evaluator of submitted products prior to nomination of products to the HTA Unit.</p> <p>Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2020-0364 or the <i>Interim Guidelines on Prioritization and Initial Evaluation of COVID-19 Related Products for Health Technology Assessment</i> states that the DPCB shall submit the list of nominated entities to the HTAU, after discussions and vetting from the DPCB-Initial Screening Unit and the COVID-19 Planning, Procurement and Logistics (PPL), and Technical Assistance and Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (TAME) teams.</p> <p>Dr. Guerrero: The process is contained in our Process Guide, and</p>

		<p>can be accessed through this link <a href="http://bit.ly/HTAPGPhilippines">http://bit.ly/HTAPGPhilippines</a>. You may submit topics which include drugs you deem are important. All topics, however, are prioritized by HTAC in terms of: (1) Responsiveness to Magnitude, Severity, and Equity (2) Safety and Effectiveness (3) Household Financial Impact (4) Cost-effectiveness (5) Affordability and Viability</p>
<p>Maria Fatima Villena <i>(University of the Philippines Manila)</i></p>	<p>On the implementing guidelines within traditional medicine subcommittee, is this already established or the subcommittee will have to lay down separate guidelines for this because evaluating traditional medicine is very different in the biomedical methods used for other technologies?</p>	<p>Dr. Guerrero: We agree that we have to develop a separate guideline for Traditional Medicine because the study designs and outcome measures are different. This is one of the objectives of the Subcommittee on Traditional Medicine for the next year--to develop a separate Methods Guide for Traditional Medicine. The Subcommittee is composed of Dr. Isidro Sia, Dr. Martin Camara, and Dr. Gemiliano Aligui.</p>
<p>Joshua San Pedro <i>(Council for Health and Development)</i></p>	<p>How were the constant HTAC panel members decided upon by the DOH/DOST? Are they appointed to regular terms under the DOH/DOST as members of the panel? Thank you!</p>	<p>Dr. Guerrero: We had an open call for nomination in 2019 to recruit the members of the current HTA Council. The call was addressed to universities and professional organizations, so they can nominate candidates. There was a joint selection Committee between DOH and DOST, and they followed a very strict selection criteria which included training in the relevant discipline, academic and professional integrity, publication, and disclosure of conflict of interest (COI).</p> <p>The HTAC members have no plantilla positions. They are appointed every 3 years except for the medico-legal expert, ethicist, and the sociologist or anthropologist who shall serve for a term of four (4) years.</p>
<p>Evan Payawal <i>(Pfizer Inc)</i></p>	<p>Will the HTAC entertain a per institution exemption assessment in certain cases?</p>	<p>No. The HTAC recommendation can only be positive or negative (i.e., recommended for coverage/ funding or not).</p>

	Similar to PNF?	Please be apprised that requests for exemption from Executive Order No. 49 s. 1993 (Directing the mandatory use of the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF) as the Basis for Procurement of Drug Products by the Government) are no longer accepted as per Department Circular No. 2020-0011 dated 22 January 2020 (Non-acceptance of requests for exemption from the Philippine National Formulary).
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<b>Questions for Dr. Jaime C. Montoya - Establishment of the HTA Research Network</b>		
<b>Name of Attendee</b> <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Maria Cecilia Catapang <i>(Asian Academy for Aesthetics and Allied Sciences)</i>	Where do I go to seek assistance and support to conduct a study?	Dr. Guerrero: You may contact the HTA Unit at <a href="mailto:hta@doh.gov.ph">hta@doh.gov.ph</a> to ensure that the topic is responsive to the DOH and PhilHealth Needs. If your study is deemed important, then we can work with DOST for possible funding through the AHEAD program.
Gian Jimenez <i>(IQVIA Solutions Philippines)</i>	Can research firms aside from mentioned be part of the research network?	Yes, per AO 2020-0041 ( <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/administrative-order-on-hta/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/administrative-order-on-hta/</a> ), the members of the research network are not limited to academic institutions only. The AO reads:  D. HTA Research Network (...) 3. Researchers affiliated with specific universities, colleges, institutions or organizations, whether public or private, included in the said network shall ensure compliance with this Order and shall declare any conflict of interest. 4. The creation and development of the HTA research network shall follow a mechanism agreed upon by DOH and DOST.

		As such research firms may also be part of the research network upon compliance to the set requirements.
Joanna Michell Aniago (PNRI)	Dear Dr. Montoya, may I ask when will the priority technologies list for research networks be posted online?	The Call for Proposals for COVID-19 priority technologies is accessible through this link ( <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/02/10/call-for-proposals-for-2021-and-2022-ahead-hpsr-research-priorities/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/02/10/call-for-proposals-for-2021-and-2022-ahead-hpsr-research-priorities/</a> ). Deadline of submission of proposals is on 25 February 2021. For queries, please contact Mr. Pio Justin Asuncion at (02) 651-7800 local 1326/1328 or email at <a href="mailto:dohahead@gmail.com">dohahead@gmail.com</a> .
Mediadora Saniel (HTA Council)	Can a professional medical society like PSMID be considered for inclusion in the research network?	Yes, as long as the institution meets the minimum requirements set by the DOST-DOH HTA research network. Health professional societies could also form part of the evidence generation group in the HTA Research Network conducting assessments through commissioned research.
Kyle Allhyn Sefuentes (PPhA)	How to be a part of the research team?	Together with DOST, we are currently organizing an HTA research network that will link research institutions and the HTAC for partnership and collaboration in HTA-related research endeavors. Researchers affiliated with specific universities, colleges, institutions or organizations, whether public or private may be part of this network.
Jane Villablanca (Ferring Pharmaceuticals)	If I conduct research on UHC-HTA and Disaster Risk Management, will there be available funding? Can you recommend resource persons knowledgeable on this topic?	The topic must first be established as eligible for HTA since some questions are either for evaluation or for impact assessment. If identified as a priority topic by the HTAC, the HTA Unit may perform the assessment or members of the research network can also be commissioned to conduct the study.
John Paul Caesar delos Trinos	Can a research/consulting firm registered in SEC as private/for profit entity be allowed	Yes, per AO 2020-0041 ( <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/administrative-order-on-hta/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/administrative-order-on-hta/</a> ), the members of the research network are not

<i>(metaHealth Insights and Innovations)</i>	to join the HTA research network?	<p>limited to academic institutions only. The AO reads:</p> <p>D. HTA Research Network          (...) 3. Researchers affiliated with specific universities, colleges, institutions or organizations, whether public or private, included in the said network shall ensure compliance with this Order and shall declare any conflict of interest.          4. The creation and development of the HTA research network shall follow a mechanism agreed upon by DOH and DOST.</p> <p>As such, a research/consulting firm registered in SEC as a private/for profit entity may also be part of the research network provided that set requirements are complied with.</p>
Sr. Arcelita Sarnillo	In case we conduct study in the hospital settings , what topic can you suggest? Is there a possibility to avail fundings?	The topic has to be relevant and responsive to the health care demands in your setting. If the technology is considered a priority topic of DOH and PhilHealth, the HTA Unit may perform the assessment or members of the research network can also be commissioned to conduct the study.
Gerald Olayan	What are the minimum requirements for an individual to join the research network?	Individuals affiliated with research-capable public and private institutions with relevant HTA expertise can be engaged as members of the HTA research network. Rest assured that the concerned stakeholders will be updated through our website once complete details will be finalized.

<b>Questions for Dr. Limuel Anthony B. Abrogena - The HTA Process Guide</b>		
<b>Name of Attendee</b> <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>



Joany Rablies	How do we clearly delineate FDA from HTA?	Dr. Guerrero: FDA is in-charge of marketing authorization of products - what can be legally marketed or sold in the PHL - using clinical studies as a basis. . HTA is concerned with coverage decisions in health care using not only clinical evidence, but also other pieces of evidence, such as cost implications, legal and ethical considerations, social acceptability and organizational impacts of a health technology. In considering clinical evidence, HTA is also concerned more on comparative effectiveness studies (i.e., comparing the new health technology versus what we currently have in the system) vs. FDA which can approve a product based on studies with placebo as comparator. Not all products approved by FDA can be recommended for public funding.
Gian Jimenez (IQVIA Solutions Philippines)	May I ask on the specific format that will be feasible for submission of HTA dossier applications	You may refer to the HTA Process Guide for the details of the forms and steps on how to develop and submit applications. The HTA Process Guide is accessible through this link: <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/philippine-hta-process-guide/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/philippine-hta-process-guide/</a>

<b>Questions for Dr. Jacinto Blas V. Mantaring III, Dr. Aleli D. Kraft, and Dr. Maria Carinnes P. Alejandria - The HTA Methods Guide</b>		
<b>Name of Attendee</b> <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Joshua San Pedro (Council for Health and Development)	Was HTAC consulted at all in the recent costing for rtPCR tests conducted by the DOH/DTI in its Joint Administrative Order (JAO) last November 24?	Dr. Guerrero: Yes, for some of the testing kits where we had information, we provided data to inform the JAO.
	But with regards to the cost-	Dr. Guerrero: HTA Philippines only provided evidence on the cost

	effectiveness/affordability, the JAO did not involve the HTAC?	of the supplies where we had information to ensure that the final cost for patients and PhilHealth will be affordable. Note that for the rapid reviews on COVID-19 health technologies (which include RT-PCR), we do not employ formal cost-effectiveness analysis models (as this takes a lot of time and will therefore delay access to important health technologies in a pandemic situation) but consider at least cost implications.
John Paul Caesar delos Trinos ( <i>metaHealth Insights and Innovations</i> )	What is the basis for the positive HTA recommendation (e.g. we don't have a CE threshold yet, is there an "equity score", how do we say the health systems impact is okay?)	We currently use the HTAC decision criteria which are the following: responsiveness to magnitude, severity and equity, safety and effectiveness, household financial impact, cost-effectiveness, and affordability & viability. The HTAC uses these criteria to deliberate on their recommendations.
Evan Payawal ( <i>Pfizer Inc</i> )	If cost-effectiveness analysis local data are not available for a technology, who will generate data and fund the research?	The HTA Unit may commission out studies on generating data for input parameters to the research network.
	Under what circumstance would alternative to full cost-effectiveness studies be entertained? Such as budget impact analysis (BIA)?	Dr. Kraft: In a pandemic situation, such as what we are experiencing now, we cannot produce a full blown Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA). In the previous rapid reviews for COVID-19, we outlined the costs associated with the technologies. We tried to list down the necessary materials, such as the reagents needed for this health technology, among others. The BIA is not a substitute for a full CEA. To an extent, we can do a BIA even in a rapid review situation. This is a complement to the CEA because even if the health technology is deemed to be cost-effective, if the government cannot pay for the aggregate amount for the health technology, then that would also factor into the decision of the HTAC. In HTA, we look at the cost-effectiveness, but we also consider the budget impact, the household financial impact, the equity impact.

<p>Nerissa Lopez (Department of Education - Division of Rizal)</p>	<p>May I ask if HTA will give an impact to the academe?</p>	<p>Yes. Being a member of the research network will be valuable to the academe in many ways, such as expansion of the faculty development program, broadened research portfolio, recognition as a significant contributor to the attainment of universal health care both at the national and regional levels, and better appreciation of institutional relevance in national development, among others.</p>
<p>Imelda Ang</p>	<p>Will HTAC also be consulted for the procurement of vaccine or implementation of the vaccination for COVID?</p>	<p>Dr. Mantaring: Vaccine Experts Panel consulted HTAC for the COVID-19 vaccine, we look into the full legal, ethical considerations.</p> <p>UPDATE: The Council has already released its assessment through the links below for COVID-19 Vaccines with Emergency Use Authorization from Philippine FDA.</p> <p><i>Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine:</i>  <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/02/04/bnt162b2pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccinefor-the-prevention-of-covid-19/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/02/04/bnt162b2pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccinefor-the-prevention-of-covid-19/</a></p> <p><i>AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine:</i>  <a href="https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/02/09/covid-19-vaccine-chadox1-s-recombinant-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-for-the-prevention-of-covid-19/">https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2021/02/09/covid-19-vaccine-chadox1-s-recombinant-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-for-the-prevention-of-covid-19/</a></p>