

HTA 101: Moving Together Towards Universal Health Care
 16 Dec 2020 (Session 3: Patient Groups and the General Public) | 9:00 - 11: 00 AM

Questions from Zoom

Questions for Ms. Anne Julienne M. Genuino-Marfori - Overview of HTA in the Philippines

Name of Attendee <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	Question	Answer*
Buen Jocel Abalos	As a student, how can we contribute to HTA to spread awareness to the people around us. And who should we contact so that information will be valid?	*Ms. Genuino-Marfori: <i>"We've been getting requests from schools. Isa sa mga basic activities nila sa pagspread ng awareness ay pag invite ng speakers sa mga schools. Very common ito sa mga college students kasi I believe pharmacy (degree programs) have incorporated HTA in their curriculum. You can contact hta@doh.gov.ph so we can provide you with resource speakers."</i>
RJay Bautista	I'm Rjay, an RMT from Camp Navarro general Hospital, Zamboanga City, and a believer here of HTA's visions. Just to clarify, how will you disseminate the health technology assessment to the main public and what are n your strategies to make them fully understand the main concept and strategies of this program? ALSO, how will it help our military soldiers who does not have access to information like this?	*Ms. Genuino-Marfori: <i>"Hindi po natatapos ang ating proseso sa pagrelease lang ng decision. Sa bawat decision at recommendation ng HTAC, we publish news articles. For now, it's in English. We aim soon to also publish our materials in Filipino and Bisaya, etc. We can also hold webinars. Ang DOH ay mayroon ring quarterly forums, lagi pong may presentation ang HTAC doon at uma-attend rin ang HTAU."</i>
	Sorry medyo complicated ang questions and concerns ko po. But in reality, sa lahat po ng klase ng tao dito sa Pilipinas eh the soldiers are the last to know for programs like this. I hope you will conduct an outreach	HTA Philippines is continuously making organized webinars, and will surely involve more stakeholders including military organizations in the future.

	programs for them kasi po yung locations nila ang mahirap.	
Eddie Ponio (PMSH)	Would it be Achievable for the Philippines to Set up an INDEPENDENT HEALTH Body/Agency just like in SWEDEN MANAGED BY EXPERTS/SCIENTISTS TO DO AWAY with POLITICAL INTERVENTION and to Deal Mainly with EVIDENCE BASED DECISIONS and Scientifically Discussed and Evaluated...?	HTAC is already an independent recommendatory body upholding the rigor of scientific evidence and maintaining objectivity in its assessment by ensuring that recommendations are not influenced by any commercial and/or political conflict of interest.

**Quoted answers are answered live by the webinar panelist*

Questions for Atty Bu C. Castro - AO 2020-0041		
Name of Attendee <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	Question	Answer
Nathaniel Baltazar (National University)	Good morning! Why would the HTAC transition to DOST? Wouldn't it be convenient for the HTAC to remain with DOH?	This transition is in accordance with Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act. The law reads that within 5 years, the HTAC shall transition to DOST after its establishment under DOH.
Paul Mendoza (PsorAsiaPacific)	Which comes first, applying for drugs to be included in National Philippine Formulary, or going for the HTA route?	Applications for inclusion of medicines for PNF listing are now subsumed under the work of HTA.
Steve Piczon	Hello. What will be the difference of roles of HTAC and Formulary Exec Council in establishing the PNF?	Since its establishment in October 2019, the HTA Council is now in charge of applications for inclusion of health technologies in the Philippine National Formulary. The Transitory Formulary Executive Council (TFEC) was created within the HTA Council to manage the

		remaining submissions in the PNF. The HTA Council continues to deliberate and give recommendations for these submissions. Nomination of new topics for PNF inclusion will start in September 2021, subject to the availability of resources.
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Questions for Dr. Josefina Angeles Tuazon - The HTA Process Guide		
Name of Attendee <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	Question	Answer*
Chris Munoz <i>(Philippine Alliance of Patients Organizations)</i>	Medicines and technology evolves very fast nowadays. If htac will process a technology for more than 2 years, then it will still take time for a doh program to be implemented, by the time there will be a program in sight, there might be a new medicine that will be released much better than the approved medicine. Is there a way to make the hta process faster? time is of the essence for patients and we want the best healthcare.	<i>*Ms. Genuino-Marfori: "The timeline included in the PG is the worst case scenario for appeals, reassessments, price negotiations but of course not all health technologies will undergo these. It is also possible that the proponents may conduct their own assessment and the HTAC can just perform appraisal of these assessments. So ito po talaga, upper limit po yung timeline na nakalagay sa process guide."</i>
	What will happen if industries, medical societies and patients groups submitted or appealed a certain medicine or technology? Will all be read or only the first submission will be considered for review?	Given that they are submitted with the complete requirements and within the prescribed period, all appeals will be considered for review. Our proponents generally have two opportunities to appeal--for shortlisted topics after the prioritization and upon release of recommendations on health technologies. Ms. Genuino-Marfori: Hello, Sir Chris! All official and valid appeals, regardless of source, shall all be considered in the review of inputs for the initial

		recommendation. All these shall be considered when HTAC develops the final recommendation. Thank you!
John Alejano (<i>Bacolod Queen of Mercy Hospital</i>) <johnalfa20@hotmail.com>	Bacolod City is in the process of establishing a new city hospital soon, can HTAC give us advice during the LGU's journey in building a UHC-ready hospital?	Ms. Genuino-Marfori: HTA is just one of the tools that can help achieve UHC. The scope of addressing these questions is much more than the scope of this webinar and HTA overall. We can connect you to the appropriate office in DOH who can provide a more holistic and comprehensive approach and advice.
Karen Ida Villanueva (<i>Philippine Alliance of Patients Organizations</i>)	Good morning! Pres. Duterte just announced the Philippines will be buying 25Million vaccines from SinoVac because of "geopolitics". Did the choice of the vaccine undergo HTA? Were patient groups involved in the process? If no, why not?	HTAC is part of a sub-technical body in charge of the COVID vaccine selection which is part of the bigger plan for the roll out of the vaccination. Its evidence appraisal and recommendation will help inform decisions made within the body. Among the streams of work of HTAC in its assessment activities shall include assessment of the ethical, legal, social, health system impact. This involves activities to consult patient groups and members of the general public on several matters such as perception on the vaccines, acceptability, among others. Rest assured that we will keep our stakeholders informed about the process through our website, hta.doh.gov.ph .
Patricia Lapena (<i>Integrated Micro-Electronics, Inc.</i>)	What is the typical process & timeline for evaluation of a technology?	There are tracks for major applications in health technology assessments - the 'general' and 'expedited' HTA processes. Furthermore, we are also accepting submissions from the DOH national health programs through the 'urgent' process. The HTAC has also recently opened a track for minor applications. All processes will undergo the same steps, but differ in timelines depending on research needs. For more

		information, you may refer to the HTA Process Guide: http://bit.ly/HTAPGPhilippines .
Loreann Villanueva (Takeda Philippines)	Is the declaration of public health emergency under the accountability of DOH Sec only or will this cover health emergencies specific to a province also e.g. leptospirosis, dengue, malaria.	The request for an expedited review of health technologies following the declaration of a public health emergency by the Secretary of Health must come from the Department of Health. Examples of health technologies we've reviewed so far are those for COVID-19. We also accept submissions from the national health programs if they deem the health technology a priority though not necessarily for public health emergencies.
Penny Lapena (Integrated Micro-Electronics, Inc.)	For technologies submitted by a member of the industry (such as IMI) through DPCB. Who is in charge of submitting the HTA submission form? Is it IMI or DPCB? Thank you.	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. 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 & Evaluation (TAME) teams. Dr. Guerrero: The process is contained in our Process Guide, and can be accessed through this link http://bit.ly/HTAPGPhilippines . 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
	Upon completion of HTA's evaluation on a technology (specific example: ventilating device for COVID-19 patients), and given that there is positive feedback, how does HTA work with the DOH to proceed with roll-out of the technology to hospitals?	The HTAC serves as a recommendatory body to DOH. Per UHC Law, DOH and PhilHealth cannot fund and adopt health technologies without a positive recommendation by the HTAC. According to Section 34 of the UHC Act, investments on any health technology or development of any benefit package by DOH or Philhealth shall be based on the positive recommendation of the HTAC.

**Quoted answers are answered live by the webinar panelist*

Questions for Dr. Annabelle R. Borromeo - Patient Group Involvement		
Name of Attendee <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	Question	Answer*
Maria Fatima Villena	What is the citizen representative's role in the HTAC? How can patient groups/CSOs effectively engage her (Ms. Borromeo, I believe) so that we can ensure patients/citizens' voices in the HTAC?	<i>*Dr. Borromeo: "The role of the citizen's representative is to provide the perspective of citizens/patients, and so the perspective that we bring to the table is not just ours but what we want to be able to do is engagement because in deliberations regarding any of the technologies, we would like to represent the patients' perspective as well. In my talk, the expertise of the patients is the experience of the illness, not just psychologically but everything that involves the patient's experience. And so yes, I would very much welcome engagement and therefore next year, as</i>

		<i>we improve, you will now get some announcements as to how to be engaged. Right now, if you want to, I would encourage, there is always the HTAU and they can get in touch with me or I can be directly tapped. This information will be identified on our website. "</i>
Jojo Flores <i>(Cancer CARE Registry Philippines Foundation, Inc.)</i>	How can a patient be part of the HTA process / group?	Patient perspectives are very important in decision-making. Patient groups can actively participate in HTA by submitting topics for nomination and giving their insights and comments for topic prioritization, and appeals for resolutions during meetings and stakeholder consultations. They can also serve as resource persons in our assessments.
	As a follow-up question: If a patient is not part of any patient group, may the patient still be part of the HTA process/group?	Ms. Genuino-Marfori: Hello, Sir Jojo. Yes. For example, a patient may send us a topic for HTA.
Paul Mendoza <i>(PsorAsiaPacific)</i>	As part of social participation for UHC, we hope that patient groups and CSOs will be able to be part of the whole process of the HTA. Hope that they will be given seats with the council even if they are non-voting members of the HTAC.	In line with HTAC's mandate for a transparent, consultative and inclusive process, representatives from patient groups and civil society organizations are also consulted using focus group discussion and key informant interviews. The result of the consultation will be considered in the recommendation of a health technology.
Orlino Jr. Palacpac <i>(University of the Philippines)</i>	It would seem that compared to UK, Canada and Scotland, the Philippines has a catch-all approach to HTA. Why is this so? Is this realizable and sustainable?	Dr. Borromeo: HTA Philippines is encompassing in nature and still continues to evolve through considering insights from stakeholders and adopting good practices from other HTA agencies toward further optimization and refinement of our processes.

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Questions for Dr. Ma. Carmen Cornelia-Tolabing - The HTA Methods Guide

Name of Attendee <i>(affiliation as indicated)</i>	Question	Answer
Karen Ida Villanueva <i>(Philippine Alliance of Patients Organizations)</i>	Hello for Dr. Tolabing - Is Loss of productivity of the patient and carer(family) taken into account in the Economic Assessment? Thanks	Dr. Kraft: Yes, these are taken into consideration in our assessment since we look at the household financial impact which looks at the out-of-pocket expenses of the households. These include expenses that are associated with accessing care like expenses for accommodation of patients and carers if they need to travel to the health facility. While we limit the cost-effectiveness analysis to direct health care costs, these other expenses are considered when we look at the household financial impact.
Chris Munoz <i>(Philippine Alliance of Patients Organizations)</i>	How does progress plus work? is it through interview or any method to ensure equity?	Dr. Alejandria: We do employ a lot of methods including qualitative data collection such as interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Example, we first send out interview guides before conducting the actual interview. Since the start of the pandemic, we usually do it via teleconference platforms (e.g., Zoom, messenger, etc.) or phone calls.