

## PD188 Step-By-Step Introduction Of Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment In Ukraine

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**Introduction:** Health technology assessment (HTA) became mandatory in Ukraine in 2020 for public coverage of new medicines. This review outlines the steps Ukraine took to introduce HTA at the hospital level through hospital-based HTA (HB-HTA). HB-HTA is a globally recognized, science-based tool that helps hospital stakeholders answer questions on the safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness of health technologies they are planning to introduce.

**Methods:** The authors examined the steps taken to introduce and implement HB-HTA in Ukraine, the impacts reached thus far, and the implications for further national scale-up. Key steps associated with the intervention included the following: awareness raising activities in HB-HTA; structured stakeholder engagement; review of global HB-HTA tools and their adaptation to the local context; training for key hospital staff; piloting tools in a select hospital; and review of the pilot experience to inform future application.

**Results:** Starting from 2021, HB-HTA was introduced through awareness raising activities. The regulatory framework for introducing health technologies into hospitals was analyzed, outlining the need for updated regulations. Review of global HB-HTA tools revealed that tools developed by the Adopting Hospital Based Health Technology Assessment in European Union project were the most applicable for Ukraine and were subsequently adapted to the country's context by an expert panel of 13 hospital stakeholders. Following this, Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines for Ukrainians (SAFEMed) organized HB-HTA training for key hospital stakeholders. The Amosov National Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery was chosen for the pilot due to its high level of operational activity. The results of the pilot are expected soon.

**Conclusions:** Introducing globally recognized HB-HTA tools and piloting them in a real-world setting provides basic concepts to the HTA experts who will be involved in scaling up HB-HTA in Ukraine. Initial recommendations point to the need to scale-up HB-HTA slowly, first working with one hospital to gain HB-HTA experience that will inform further application across the country.

## PD189 Strengthening Health Decision-Making: The Role Of Capacity Building In Health Technology Assessment In Latin America

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**Introduction:** Health technology assessment (HTA) applications in low- and middle-income countries face limited technical capacities. The Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (IECS) is a key player in strengthening HTA expertise in the region and offers a variety of courses. Over 200 students from across Latin America have undertaken our introductory course on HTA and economic evaluation in the last four years.

**Methods:** The IECS provides a nine-week introductory online course focused on the fundamentals of HTA and economic evaluation. The course is designed for healthcare professionals (doctors, administrators, auditors, nurses, pharmacists, lawyers, etc.). The materials are available in Spanish and Portuguese on a virtual campus with asynchronous activities. Students are guided by instructors through an exchange forum. This study aimed to showcase the outcomes of this HTA course. Our analysis encompassed quantitative and qualitative data from a survey administered to nine student cohorts over the last four years. The surveys featured eight question categories covering materials, activities, quizzes, course dynamics, forum usage, tutoring, and satisfaction.

**Results:** A total of 234 students from Latin America were enrolled in the course. More than half came from Argentina (68%). Of the initial enrollees, 212 (91%) started the course and 192 (91%) of them passed. The satisfaction survey was completed by 168 students. Ninety-six percent of students were satisfied or very satisfied with the course overall, and the same percentage would recommend it to a colleague. Eighty-six percent felt that they could adequately follow the course, and 40 percent of students dedicating an average of two to four hours per week to the course.

**Conclusions:** Having accessible and feasible training opportunities in the region is important. The IECS HTA and economic course enhances HTA expertise in Latin America, as evidenced by its high rates of enrolment, completion, and satisfaction, with over 90 percent of participants recommending it. This underscores its effectiveness in reinforcing health decision-making knowledge in Latin America and contributing to the advancement of health policy.