

OP55 Did It Matter? Developing A Common Framework For Characterizing Impact Of Patient Involvement In Health Technology Assessment

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Introduction: While the impact of health technology assessments (HTAs) is often not evaluated, some HTA bodies measure the impact of patient involvement in their processes. Evaluating how patient involvement is perceived by all stakeholders may help to improve practices and avoid activities that unduly burden patient and HTA communities. Frameworks and tools have been designed to analyze the impact of patient engagement along the healthcare development lifecycle. Reporting on the impact of patient involvement in HTA-specific activities, however, continues to be infrequent, unstandardized, and not comprehensive.

Having a common framework to characterize and report on the impact of patient involvement may enable this practice to be optimized and harmonized across HTA contexts.

Methods: The Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group (PCIG) within Health Technology Assessment International set out to contextualize this impact and support reporting. A questionnaire was developed, piloted, and rolled out to collect multistakeholder personal perceptions of the impact of patient involvement in individual HTAs. Questions included: "What difference did you feel patient involvement made in the HTA activity?" and "What would have been missed without patient involvement?". From January 2019 to September 2021, 24 responses (including one joint submission) were collected through the PCIG's network from HTA bodies (11), patient representatives (12), and industry representatives (2) from North America (5), South America (3), Europe (13), and Australia (3).

Results: Common themes were extracted from these experiences to characterize the impact of patient participation in HTA processes. Based on these commonalities, a harmonized framework consisting of three "domains" is proposed: impact on the decision-making process; impact on patient stakeholders; and impact on the HTA body. The framework includes a set of items under each domain to support reporting.

Conclusions: By having common language and measures, the HTA community can harmonize processes across jurisdictions to evaluate

and communicate the value of patient involvement in HTA. Improving consistent reporting may facilitate more efficient process improvement for meaningful integration of patient stakeholders into HTA decision-making.

OP57 Consumer Engagement In Health Technology Assessment: An Australian Journey To Date

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Introduction: Australian health technology assessment (HTA) committees and processes at the national level have needed to consider an increasing focus on patient involvement and interactions within their scope. As various approaches have been explored, the visibility and impacts of patient involvement and consumer representation has evolved markedly over the most recent five years.

Methods: Program activities were developed from review of contemporary HTA models of practice across various HTA sectors internationally alongside input from individual patients and patient groups. Practical application of program pilots was influenced by specific requirements of the Office of HTA, the coordination of HTA Committee procedures and timelines, and involvement of HTA Committee consumer members.

Results: The development of capacity building programs for HTA consumer committee members, the growth of external activity and communications targeting patient groups and networks, and the establishment of an expert position to develop the HTA Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit within the Department's Office of HTA, are all examples of the work delivered in this period to better integrate patient evidence and inputs into HTA processes and decision-making. Activities over the next period will seek to establish formal frameworks for meaningful involvement that can demonstrate these contributions to evaluations and decision-making.

Conclusions: Various examples of patient involvement and participation in processes have evolved over time. The scope and impacts of these experiences have illustrated important participatory demands and resourcing needs, as well potential benefits for deliberations. The Australian Government and Departmental frameworks for HTA currently seek to enhance the development of patient evidence inputs and participation. These developments will be informed by the Australian context and comprehensive consultation with Australian patient groups and their networks. Strategies for improvements are anticipated to be relevant across all HTA processes and Committees within HTA areas.