

## PP13 Results Of An International Survey About Barriers In Patient Involvement In Health Technology Assessment Of Digital Health Technologies

Edurne Gallastegui-Calvache ([edurne.gallastegui@gencat.cat](mailto:edurne.gallastegui@gencat.cat)), Carolina Moltó-Puigmartí, Joan Segur-Ferrer and Rosa Maria Vivanco-Hidalgo

**Introduction:** In recent years, several efforts have been initiated by health technology assessment (HTA) agencies to increasingly incorporate patient involvement (PI) into their assessment processes. The rationale behind PI in HTA is that patients can give their perspective and experiences about health, illness and the use of health technologies, complementing clinical and healthcare system standpoints.

A recent systematic review summarized current evidence on the barriers and facilitators of PI in HTA. Barriers and facilitators were classified according to the context in which they appear, as organizational, decision-making, political and community-related.

Digital health technologies offer a singular opportunity to address some challenges faced by healthcare systems. However, we hypothesized that their intrinsic characteristics may have some implications for PI in digital HTA. We conducted a survey to gain knowledge about barriers in PI in digital HTA.

**Methods:** The survey was elaborated using Microsoft Forms and consisted of 31 questions divided into four blocks (organizational, decision-making, political and community-related). It was sent to three Spanish, one Catalan and one International patient umbrella organizations. The results were analysed using Microsoft Excel.

**Results:** A total of four responses were received from three Spanish and one Catalan patient umbrella organizations. Results showed high, partial, and low concordance among organizations in 65 percent, 19 percent and 16 percent of the answers received, respectively. According to the results, most of the barriers for PI seem to be the same for HTA of digital health technologies as for other types of health technologies. However, two or three of the four umbrella organizations consider that HTA of digital health technologies might pose greater challenges in terms of achieving significant patient participation, sufficient patient training and knowledge of HTA processes, proper preparation and tools of the HTA experts and logistics during the HTA process.

**Conclusions:** Barriers in PI are mostly the same for digital or other types of health technologies. Few differences are related to patient training, tools, and logistics during HTA process.

## PP14 The Role Of Health Technology Assessment In The Public Hospitals Of The National Health Service Of Catalonia

Berta Mestre-Lleixà ([berta.mestre@gencat.cat](mailto:berta.mestre@gencat.cat)), Laura Llinàs-Mallol, Edurne Gallastegui-Calvache, Laia Ramos-Masdeu, Jessica Ruiz-Baena and Rosa Maria Vivanco-Hidalgo

**Introduction:** Hospitals play an essential role to facilitate the appropriate introduction of health technologies into the National Health System. We aimed to analyze if the decision-making at the hospital level is based on health technology assessment (HTA).

**Methods:** We developed a seventeen-question survey to assess the decision-making mechanisms for the introduction of health innovation into the public hospitals of the National Health Service (NHS) of Catalonia. All questions were related to the field of HTA and health innovation. We asked about the process of new health technology acquisition, the existence of HTA units, and the impact those units might have within the center. We invited the three main public healthcare providers (n= 68 centers). We performed a quantitative analysis grouping the results by type of healthcare provider.

**Results:** Thirty-five different health providers (51.5%) remitted forty-two responses. We identified two differential mechanisms for the introduction of health innovation in those centers: 51.4 percent used a directive committee for decision-making, whereas 37.1 percent employed a technical commission. Some centers (8.6%) used both options. Both the directive committees and technical commissions predominantly considered the professional experience or scientific evidence provided by the healthcare professionals of the center (80%) or external HTA reports or clinical practice guidelines (65.7%) to guide their decision-making. Using HTA products developed within the center was less frequent (34.3%). Only 57.1 percent of the healthcare providers had an HTA unit, but 75 percent of them declared that HTA products had a direct and quantifiable impact on their decision-making regarding the introduction of innovation. Healthcare providers without HTA units manifested their willingness to adopt HTA practices into their decision-making processes.

**Conclusions:** HTA at the hospital level is not a common practice when deciding to introduce innovative health technologies in the NHS of Catalonia. However, the main healthcare providers agreed that the introduction of HTA is necessary for improving their decision-making and that the HTA agency, Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia (AQuAS) will play a key role (training, promoting, and assessing).