Health Technology Assessment and the European Network for HTA

www.eunethta.eu
Outline

- What is Health Technology Assessment?
- European Network of Health Technology Assessment
The Origins of HTA

• Implications of health technology on:
  – Patients
  – Patients’ Families
  – Health Care
  – Society
  – Legal and political system
  – Economy

http://www.princeton.edu/~ota/
Definitions of technology...

- [...] the systematic application of scientific and other organised knowledge to practical tasks

  *Galbraith 1977*

- [...] tools in general sense, including machines, but also including linguistic and intellectual tools [...] the organisation of knowledge for practical purposes

  *Mesthene 1977*
... and their implications for HTA

[...] the drugs, devices, and medical and surgical procedures used in health care, and the organisational and supportive systems within which such care is provided.

Office of Technology Assessment 1978
... and a wider view on health technologies

- The interventions (drugs, procedures, complex multidisciplinary activities) which can be provided / reimbursed within the system when delivering health services

- The interventions applied to the system to organize service delivery, access, financing, payment of providers, etc.
An example

*Practical Purpose*
„improving survival after myocardial infarction“

*Technologies*
- Aspirin
- Stent
- Rehabilitation Programme
- Disease Management Programme
- Payment for Performance
Definition of HTA – the aim

the structured analysis of a health technology, a set of related technologies, or a technology-related issue performed with the purpose of providing input to a policy decision

EUR-ASSESS 1997
...informing policy...

Funding (coverage/reimbursement)
Investing (acquisition)
Managing, organising
Policy making paradigm

Decision-making domain
including regulation

Research domain

Planning /policy question

HTA-questions

HTA project

Summary of the assessment

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Definition of HTA – the focus

includes systematic review of research evidence on the **efficacy, safety, effectiveness and efficiency** of the health technology and consideration of the implications for the delivery of health care and for society as a whole

*EUR-ASSESS 1997*
Definition of HTA – the approach

a multidisciplinary process that summarises information in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner

EUNETHTA 2006
BEST PRACTICE IN UNDERTAKING AND REPORTING HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS

Working Group 4 Report

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„Principles“

• Notion of Evidence: the product of systematic observation or experiment
  – Collection and analysis of data following a pre-established plan
  – Definition of Effects
• Hierarchy of research designs
• Assessment of research quality
  – Validity
• Assessment of transferability to the own context
Structuring the questions

Adapted from Zaza et al. 2001
A hierarchy of evidence for assessing qualitative health research

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Accepted 23 March 2006
Total available evidence (for example, medical literature) → Relevant available evidence → Best available evidence → Execution of research (quality)

Questions → Hierarchy of research → Increasing validity

• = individual pieces of research
Summary HTA

• HTA may inform regulatory control measures, and have a defined role in regulation, but is not regulation in itself
• HTA does not mandate policies or decisions
• Despite its policy goals, HTA must always be firmly rooted in research and research methods
# European HTA Projects

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**EUR-ASSESS**
- Priority Setting
- Methods of HTA
- Dissemination and Impact

**HTA Europe**
- Health System Organisations

**ECHTA/ECAHI**
- Information Sharing
- Best Practice
- Education
- HTA in Public Health

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Policy Background

2002

*EU-Public Health Programme 2003-2008* recognizes the need to...

- improve analysis and knowledge of the impact of health policy
- review, analyse and support the exchange of experiences on health technologies

2003

*High Level Process of Reflection on Patient Mobility and Healthcare Developments in the European Union*

...to consider how a sustainable network and co-ordination function for HTA could be organised and funded, and to make any appropriate proposals
Policy Background

EU Commission High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care

HTA has become a political priority and there is an urgent need for establishing a sustainable European network on HTA

DG SANCO Public Health Work Plan

HTA is a priority area

Commissioner Kyprianou

...the usefulness of establishing a sustainable European HTA network has been recognised, I hope to see this network being set up this year...
Policy Background

2007
Informal meeting of EU Health Ministers, Aachen, Germany
20th of April 2007

1. Common challenges

2. Politics first
   • We are determined to maintain the national competence for health care organisation
   • However, our common health care challenges call for a joint effort to identify viable political solutions

3. In line with the value of access to good quality care and the principle of patient safety, we can improve the healthcare quality standards across the different health systems in the EU through the following:
   • evidence-based medicine, health technology assessments, cost-benefit analyses
   • --
   • --
European Network for Health Technology Assessment
EUnetHTA Partners

- 59 institutional partners
  - 34 Associated Partners: national/regional HTA agencies, MoH, research institutions, international organisations (Cochrane Collaboration)
  - 25 Collaborating Partners: e.g. WHO, OECD, CoE
- 24 EU Countries
- 2 EEA (Norway, Iceland)
- Switzerland
- 4 institutions in countries outside Europe (Israel, Australia, Canada, USA)
EUnetHTA Objectives

The general objective:

To establish *an effective and sustainable* European Network for Health Technology Assessment – EUnetHTA - that informs policy decisions

The general *strategic* objective of the Network:

To connect public national HTA agencies, research institutions and health ministries, *enabling* 

*effective exchange of information*

*support to policy decisions by the Member States*
EUnetHTA Strategic Objectives

- Better coordination of HTA activities
- Less duplication
- Increase the HTA output and input to decision-making in the Member States and EU
- Strengthen the link between HTA and healthcare policy making
- Support countries with limited experience with HTA

More effective use of national resources put into HTA
EUnetHTA Work Packages (WPs)

**WP1:** Coordination (*DACEHTA, Main Partner*)

**WP2:** Communications (*SBU, DAHTA*)

**WP3:** Evaluation (*NOACK, DAHTA*)

**WP4:** Common Core HTA (*FinOHTA*)

**WP5:** Adapting existing HTAs to other settings (*NCCHTA*)

**WP6:** Transferability to policy (*DACEHTA*)

**WP7:** Monitoring emerging technologies and HTA prioritisation (*HAS, LBI*)

**WP8:** Support system in Member States without institutionalised HTA (*CAHTA*)
WP 4 Core Model

**General Objective**

To define and **standardise elements** of an HTA to facilitate shared understanding of HTA and promote the international use of HTA results

- Model for Therapeutic Interventions
- Model for Diagnostic Interventions
WP 4 Core Model

- Health problem and Current use of the technology
- Description and technical characteristics of technology
- Safety
- Effectiveness
- Costs, economic evaluation
- Ethical aspects
- Organisational aspects
- Social aspects
- Legal aspects
WP 4 Core Model  Work in progress, not for citation

9 Domains

Effectiveness
WP 4 Core Model  
Work in progress, not for citation

9 Domains  55 Topics

- 
- 
- Effectiveness  
- 
- 
- Morbidity  
- 
- 
- Function / HRQL
WP 4 Core Model  Work in progress, not for citation

9 Domains  55 Topics  166 Issues

Effectiveness

Morbidity

Function / HRQL

How does the intervention modify the progression of disease?

How does the intervention modify the recurrence of symptoms and findings?

What is the effect of the intervention on return to work?

What is the effect of the intervention on health-related quality of life?
WP 4 Core Model  Work in progress, not for citation

9 Domains

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Legal
9 Domains  55 Topics  7 topics

Autonomy of the Patient
Privacy of the Patient
Equality
Ownership & Liability
Authorisation & Safety
Regulation of the Market
Regulation of experimental technologies

WP 4 Core Model  Work in progress, not for citation

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### WP 4 Core Model

**Work in progress, not for citation**

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#### Domains
- **Autonomy of the Patient**
- **Privacy of the Patient**
- **Equality**
- **Ownership & Liability**
- **Authorisation & Safety**
- **Regulation of the Market**
- **Legal**
- **Regulation of experimental technologies**

#### Questions
- Does the introduction of the technology presume additional license to be paid?
- What are the width, depth and length of manufacturers guarantee?
- Is the user's guide of the technology comprehensive/understandable enough?
WP 5 Adaptation of HTA

General Objective

To ensure better use of existing HTA reports by developing a toolkit to help HTA agencies adapt HTA reports from another country for their own use

Toolkit for Adaptation

Glossary of Terms
Welcome to the EUnetHTA Stakeholder Open Forum!
We are pleased to invite you to provide input to the future development of EUnetHTA.

The Stakeholder Open Forum is directed at improving the responsiveness of HTA to the demands of the HTA stakeholders. Therefore EUnetHTA places a high value on the contribution from the stakeholders in order to take their views and demands into account in the process of developing a sustainable collaboration on HTA in Europe. The intention is to enable a free exchange of information and opinions on the development of HTA in Europe between stakeholders and the EUnetHTA project. Also the Stakeholder Open Forum will contain information from the EUnetHTA-project of specific relevance to the stakeholders.

Since the selected stakeholder groups potentially are very large, the Stakeholder Forum will primarily target umbrella organisations at a European level when suitable.

Other parties or user groups with an interest in the development of the EUnetHTA project and a sustainable collaboration on HTA in Europe are encouraged to use this website as a source of information and a way to submit their input.

The primary focus will be on 5 stakeholder groups:
1. National/regional policymakers
2. Policymakers at hospital level
3. Patient organisations
4. Health care professionals
5. Industry

Resources
On the Stakeholder Open Forum website you can find written material from stakeholders with input to the future development of HTA in Europe.
Please go to Stakeholder Groups where you can find material of general interest and also material of specific interest to the different stakeholder groups.

EUnetHTA Conference - November 29, 2008, Paris, France
November 29th 2008 EUnetHTA is organizing a conference in Paris to present the project’s results and the plans for a future collaboration on HTA in Europe.

Mark this date to take part in the debates and influence the future development of the European HTA collaboration!
WP 7 Monitoring Emerging Technologies

General Objective
Design of a structured information service on emerging/new technologies

Design of a tool for monitoring emerging technologies
WP 8 Supporting HTA Capacity Building

General Objective
To develop tools for information support addressed to groups/organisations in the process of entering, or in the first stages of evolving to a HTA unit, agency or programme

To define the recommendable minimum components related to the scope, structure and the work process and visibility of an HTA unit/agency/programme
International Symposium

20th November 2008

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THANK YOU