

Advancing Patient Involvement in Health Technology Assessment:

A proposal and initial validation of concrete strategies for educational, methodological and institutional improvements.

da Camino Soligo, Tess Marie BSc; Solà-Morales, Oriol MD PhD | Fundació HiTT

| | | |
|------------|----|--|
| Background | ✓ | Patient involvement in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) improves transparency and relevance of decisions. Implementation remains inconsistent across countries. |
| | ✓ | Key barriers: limited patient education, lack of methodological guidance, insufficient institutional support. |
| Objective | ✓ | To gather evidence supporting concrete strategies for advancing meaningful and efficient patient involvement in HTA , focusing on Patient Education, Methodological guidance and Institutional integration |
| Methods | 1. | Targeted literature review to identify key recommendations. |
| | 2. | Development of a 16-statement survey covering four domains. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patients' education and participation in HTA (S1-6)• Methodological guidance and evaluation of patient involvement in HTA-agencies (S7-11)• Awareness and education among HTA-personnel about the benefits of patient involvement (S12-S14).• Additionally, need for financial support for patients participating in HTA activities (S15) and involving either patients or citizens in HTA processes (S16). |
| Results | 3. | Distribution among stakeholders: general public, pharmaceutical industry, HTA experts, and healthcare professionals |
| | ✓ | a total of 40 responses were collected, response rate of 4%. |
| Conclusion | ✓ | The sample included respondents from the pharmaceutical industry (28%), HTA-experts (1%) and members of the GP (20%). In addition, the sample included healthcare professionals, payers and non-governmental organisation representatives. |
| | ✓ | Participants were based in various countries, with Spain (48%) and the UK (18%) being most represented. The remaining responses came from various other European countries or the USA |
| Conclusion | ✓ | Stakeholders broadly support more structured and demanding approaches to patient involvement in HTA, particularly in terms of education and methodological clarity. |
| | ✓ | The recommendations presented in this report can serve as a valuable starting point for enhancing meaningful and sustainable patient involvement in HTA. |
| | ✓ | Future research should focus on developing accessible training programmes and implementing formal guidelines to ensure systematic and meaningful patient participation. |

Mean scores (\bar{x}) and standard deviations (SD) for all statements on patient involvement in HTA; Likert Scale 1-5 (5 strong agreement)

| Statement | | (\bar{x}) | SD |
|---|--|---------------|------|
| Section 1 - Patients education and participation in HTA | | | |
| S1 | Written or online training materials (e.g. books, e-learning) are appropriate supporting material to prepare patients for meaningful participation in HTA. | 3.78 | 0.89 |
| S2 | Face-to-face interactions (e.g. workshops, lectures) are necessary for adequately training patients in HTA. | 4.33 | 0.69 |
| S3 | Self-education is insufficient to prepare patients for meaningful and informed participation in HTA processes. | 4.00 | 0.91 |
| S4 | A training program for patient involvement in HTA should last at least 20 hours to be effective. | 3.23 | 0.86 |
| S5 | An engaging continuous training program is needed to sustain patient motivation for active involvement in HTA. | 3.68 | 0.83 |
| S6 | Continued education is essential to maintain and update patients' knowledge for continued engagement in HTA. | 3.78 | 0.77 |
| Section 2 - Methodological guidance and evaluation on patient involvement in HTA bodies | | | |
| S7 | The role (expected input and output) of patients in HTA decision making should be clearly defined in official documentation of every organization | 4.40 | 0.63 |
| S8 | Patients should be involved as early as possible in the HTA process | 4.20 | 0.85 |
| S9 | Each HTA agency should have a designated staff member responsible for coordinating patient involvement. | 4.03 | 0.83 |
| S10 | It is important to define specific KPIs to evaluate patient involvement in HTA. | 4.03 | 0.77 |
| S11 | A structured framework based on clear recommendations (GRIPP or similar) will help improve the quality, transparency and comprehensiveness of patient involvement in HTA activities. | 4.05 | 0.71 |
| Section 3 - Awareness and education among HTA-personnel about the benefits of patient involvement | | | |
| S12 | Accreditation or certification should be required for HTA professionals involved in patient engagement. | 3.43 | 0.93 |
| S13 | HTA professionals should be trained on how to effectively involve patients in HTA processes. | 4.13 | 0.65 |
| S14 | HTA processes without validated process of participation of patients should not be accepted | 3.33 | 1.12 |
| Section 4 - other | | | |
| S15 | Patients should be financially compensated for their participation in HTA activities. | 3.33 | 1.02 |
| S16 | Involving individual patients provides more relevant insights than involving citizens or the general public | 3.58 | 1.13 |