

Advancing Patient Involvement in Health Technology Assessment:

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

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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
	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). 3. Distribution among stakeholders: general public, pharmaceutical industry, HTA experts, and healthcare professionals
Methods	✓ a total of 40 responses were collected, response rate of 4%. 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