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INTRODUCTION

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) ensures evidence-based and transparent healthcare decisions. Meaningful stakeholder involvement – including patients, clinicians, and policymakers – strengthens trust and the relevance of HTA outcomes.

OBJECTIVE

This research, conducted by the HTA Department of the State Expert Centre of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (SEC of MOH) in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, analysed stakeholder involvement in Ukraine’s HTA process and compared it with European best practices to pinpoint areas for enhancement.

METHOD

A mixed-methods approach was used, including 28 survey responses, consultations with HTA Committee members, a multi-stakeholder workshop in Norway, and online consultations with Ukrainian experts to assess stakeholder involvement in Ukraine’s HTA process. A literature review of stakeholder engagement in HTA across Europe, drawing on 22 full-text articles and 35 grey literature sources, identified stakeholder types, engagement methods, and involvement across HTA stages.

RESULTS

In Ukraine, patients contribute through an adapted version of the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) patient questionnaire when the SEC’s HTA Department conducts an assessment. Clinicians provide expertise on target populations, interventions, care pathways, and real-world health outcomes in response to letter requests from the SEC’s HTA Department during the assessment stage and may also participate in HTA Expert Committee meetings as non-voting experts. The National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU), as the sole purchaser of public health services, proposes assessment topics through the MOH for abbreviated HTAs. The MOH can also request assessments of specific medicines (Figure 1). The HTA Department publishes draft HTA conclusions on the official website, allowing stakeholders to submit comments through a public discussion, which are considered if well-justified (Figure 2). In countries such as England and Denmark, structured frameworks guide patient and clinician involvement across the HTA process, including formal roles in standing committees.

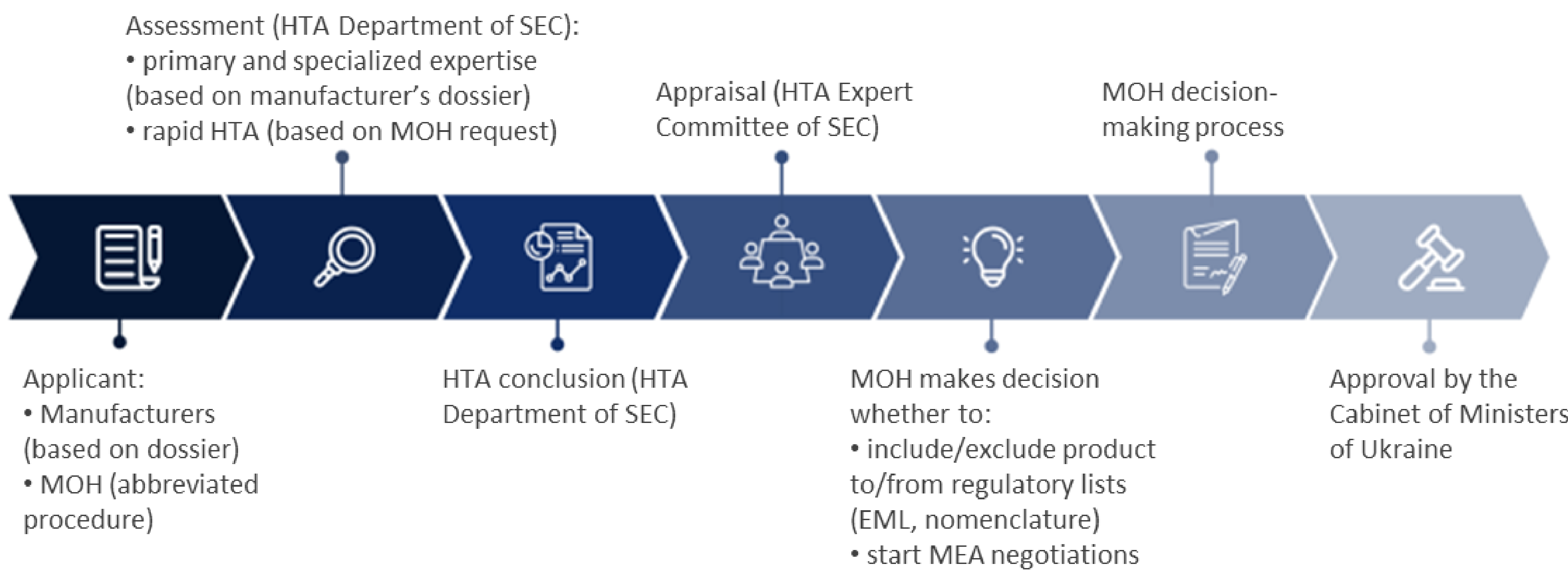


Figure 1. The HTA process in Ukraine

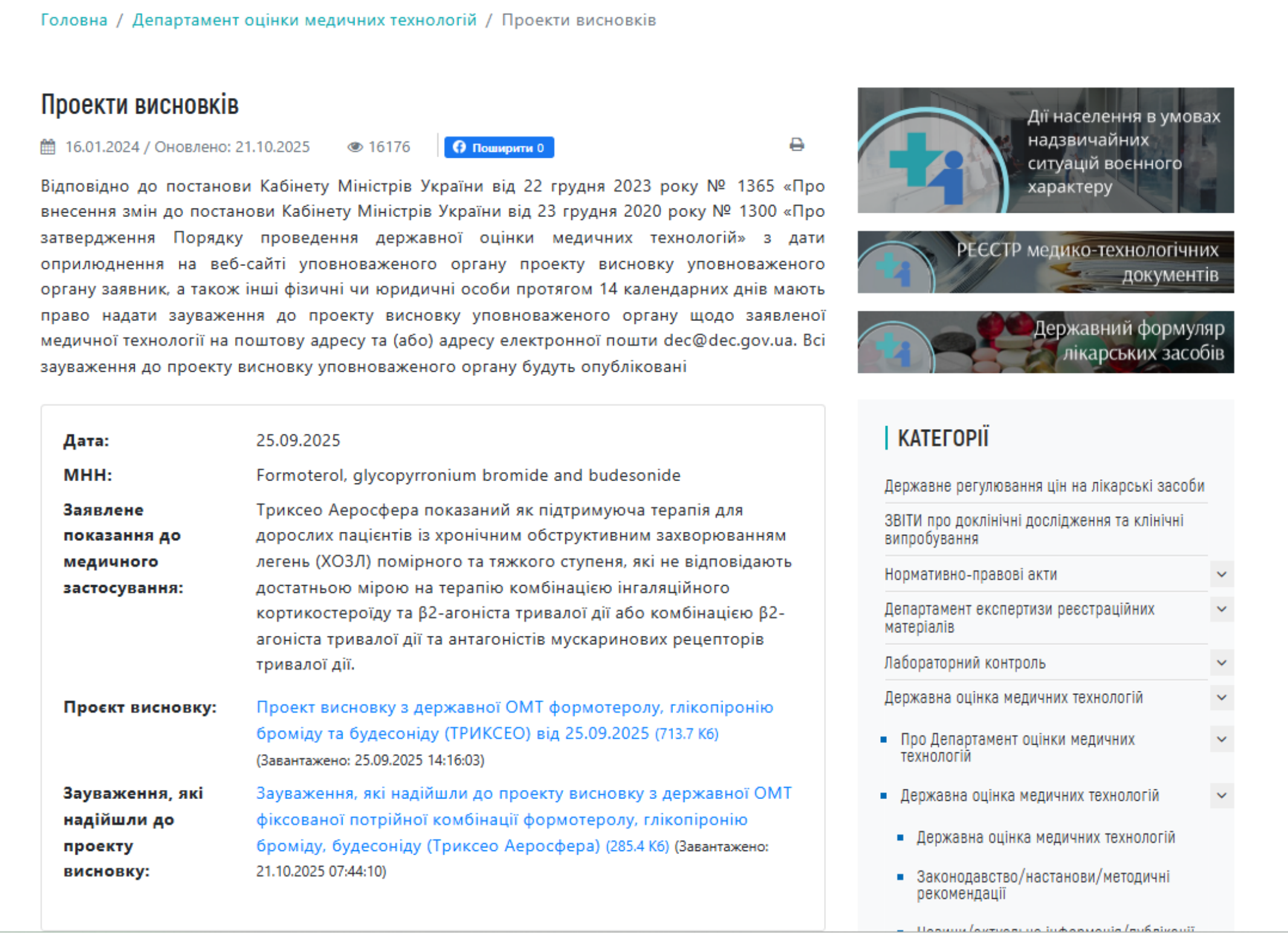


Figure 2. Public discussion of the draft conclusions

CONCLUSIONS

This study highlights the diverse roles stakeholders play in the HTA process, shaped by the organisation of the health system. As Ukraine’s HTA system continues to develop, it could benefit from a more balanced and structured approach to stakeholder engagement, drawing on European best practices. Areas for enhancement include establishing feedback mechanisms for patients and formalising clinician involvement.

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