

The Catalan Health Service, an Example Where Patients Have Full Medicine Appraisal and Decision-making Representation

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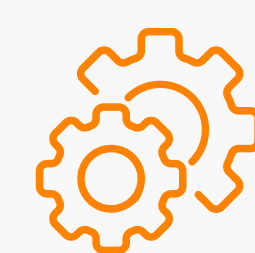
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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- > A literature review conducted in 2021, showed that **patient involvement in health technology assessments (HTAs) is becoming increasingly relevant across Europe**. The study found that the **Catalan Health Service (CatSalut)**, a regional healthcare institution of Spain, was one of the **few European bodies in which patients have voting rights**. However, published data on this subject is limited. Thus, this study aims to describe patient involvement in medicine appraisal and decision-making in Catalonia.



METHODOLOGY

- > A secondary literature research was carried out focused on medicine appraisal and decision-making model in Catalonia. Additionally, multiple interviews with Catalan evaluators to collect further information were conducted.

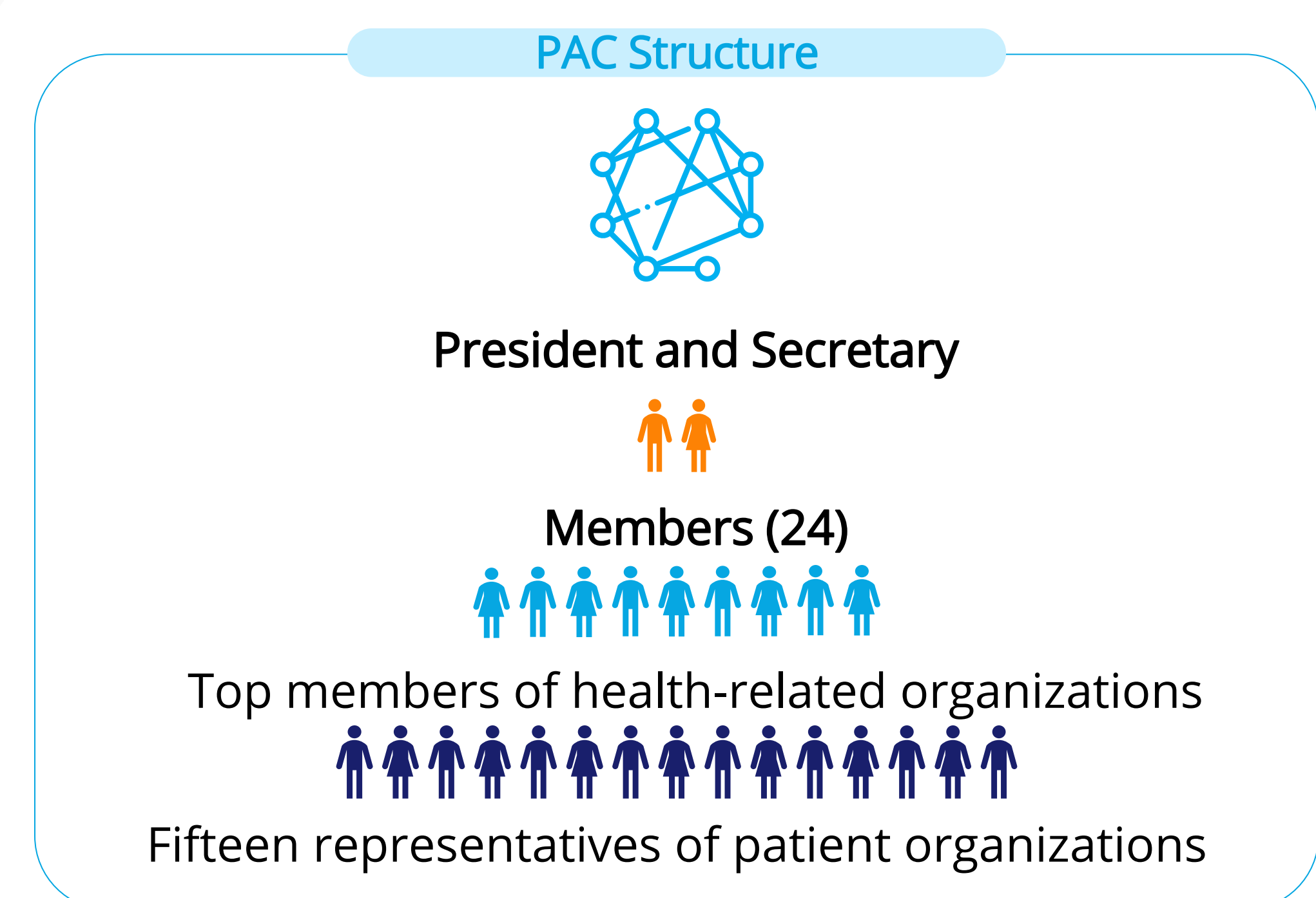


RESULTS

- > CatSalut runs a specific program for medicine appraisal and decision-making. *Programa d'Harmonització Farmacoterapèutica* (PHF), aimed to prioritize innovative medicines according to their added value and considering the needs and budgeting priorities. The PHF follows the process presented in the figure below.

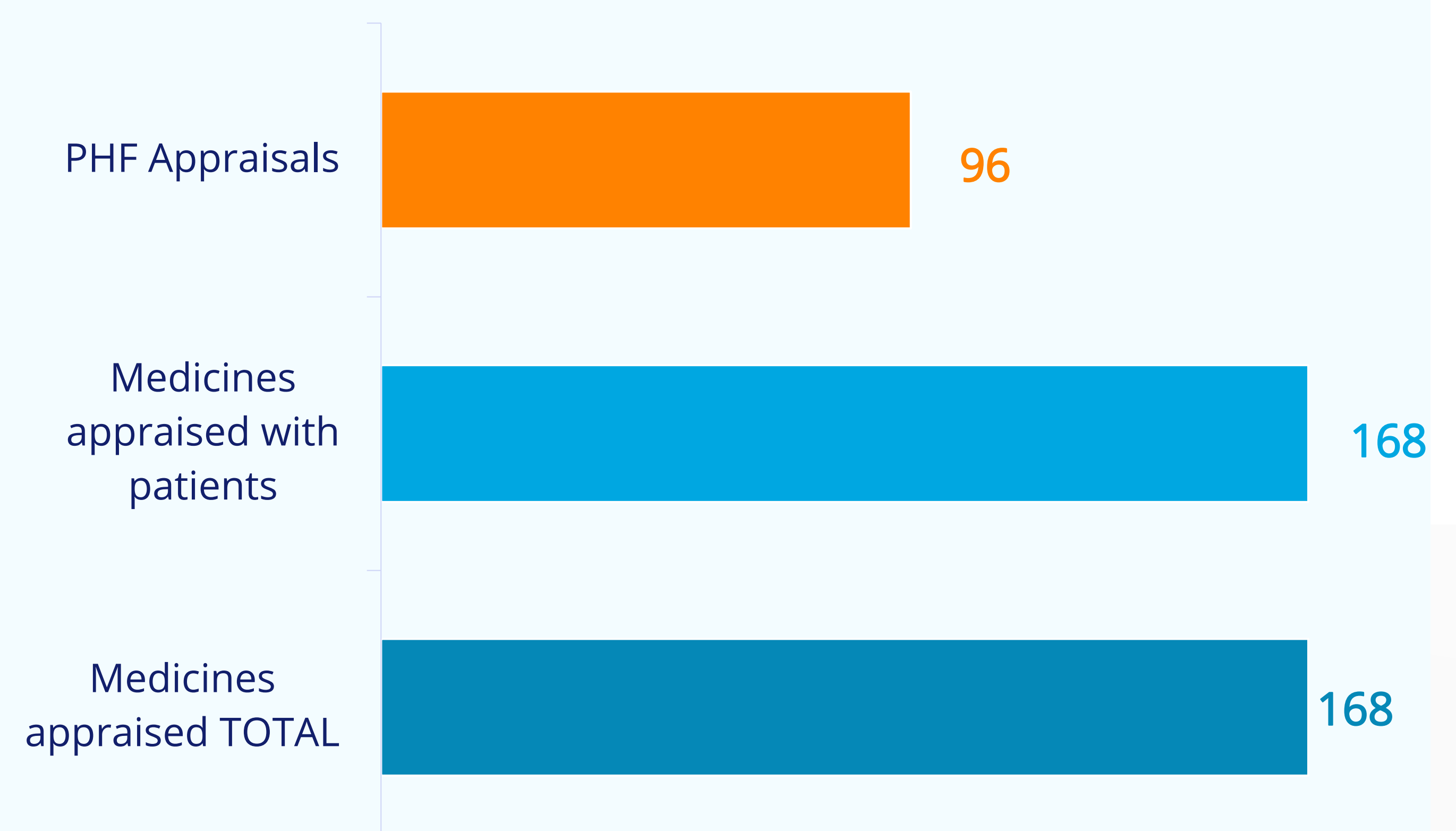


- > The PHF comprises two advisory councils, one for **hospital outpatient drugs** and one for **primary care drugs** (CAMH and CAMAPCE), and a **decision-making commission** (CFT-SISCAT). CAMH and CAMAPCE carry out tasks included in the third step and CFT-SISCAT in the fourth, of the process shown previously.
- > According to the Instruction 05/2017, each PHF panel include **different professional and clinical backgrounds, to provide a holistic and multidisciplinary approach** to medicine assessment. In particular, the advisory council's accounts with more clinical experts and the decision-making commission with regional and hospital payers. Each PHF panel accounts with **two representatives from different patient associations, appointed by the Patients' Advisory Council (PAC) of Catalonia's Department of Health**. PAC is the official body representing patient organizations in Catalonia, composed by **24 members from health-related and patient organizations**.



- > Patients' representatives are trained on administration procedures to provide their considerations at each medicine appraisal and if necessary, their vote (with the exemption of appraisals concerning their own disease). From 2017 to 2021, PHF conducted 96 appraisals for a total of 168 medicines (more than one treatment can be included in each appraisal). In all the appraisals, patients were involved in the decision-making process.

PHF Activity from 2017 to 2021



CONCLUSION

- > The Catalan program for medicine appraisal and decision-making has a high level of patient involvement, integrating them during each step to provide a multi-disciplinary medicine assessment.



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