

The Combination Conundrum

Comparing Reimbursement Outcomes for Oncology Combination Products in the UK and France

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Introduction

- Combining oncology therapies can produce more efficacious treatments by simultaneously targeting multiple pathways
- However, their additive costs can pose significant challenges for payers. This is especially true for cost-effectiveness markets where some therapies used in combination have not demonstrated cost-effectiveness even if priced at zero cost!
- This research compares reimbursement outcomes of combination oncology products in cost-effectiveness (UK, NICE) versus clinical-effectiveness market archetype (France, HAS).

Methods



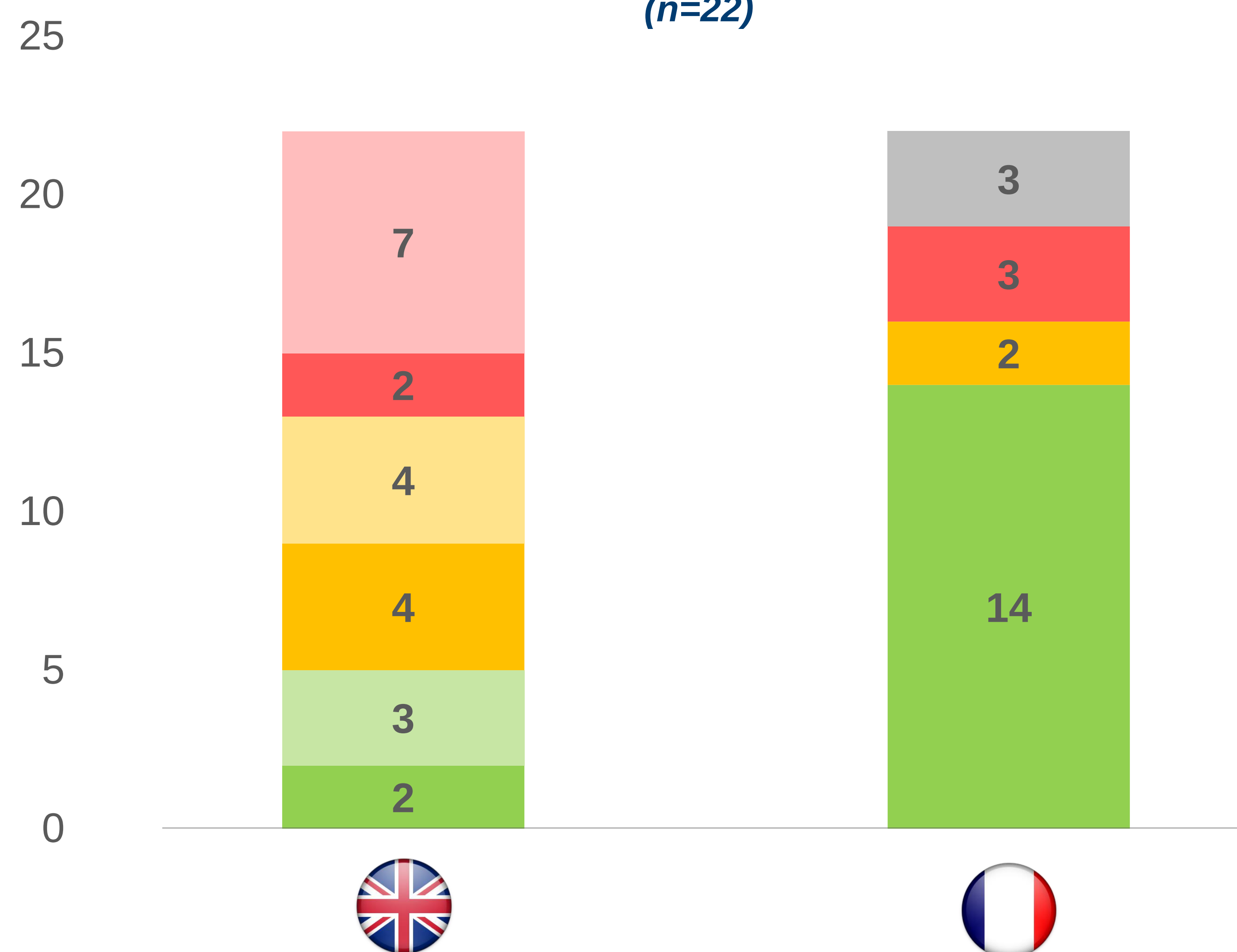
Publicly-available information from the NICE database were screened to identify the reimbursement decisions for branded oncology combination products between 01-Jan-2017 and 30-April-2023. These decisions were cross-referenced with the respective TC evaluations from the HAS website.

Results

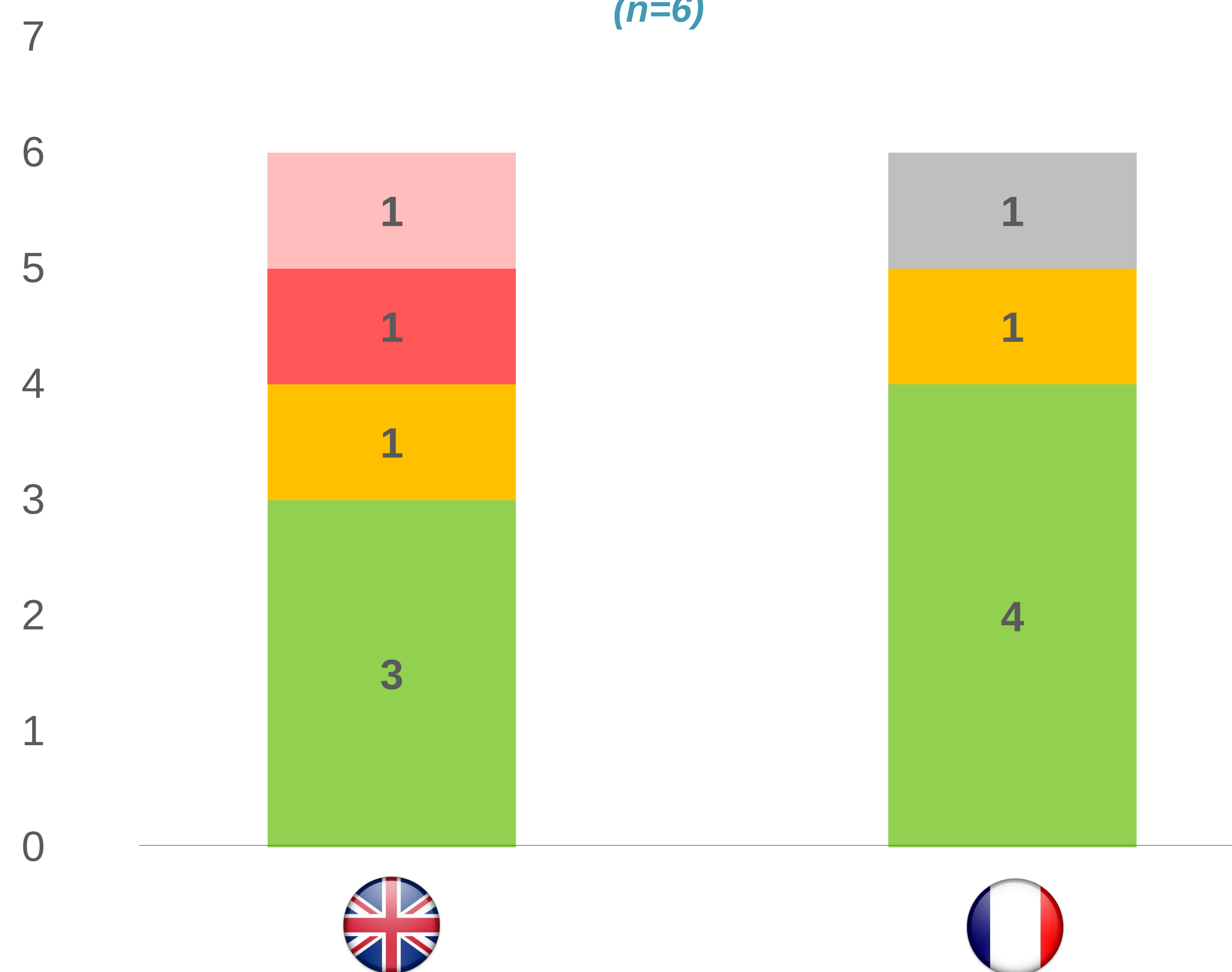


A total of 28 branded combination oncology evaluations were identified; 6 where the same manufacturers made both components and 22 with different manufacturers. For same manufacturer combinations, NICE recommended 50%, restricted 17%, not recommended 17%, with 17% not submitted. HAS recommended 67%, restricted 17%, with 17% not assessed. For different manufacturer combinations, NICE recommended 9%, restricted 18%, CDF 32%, 9% not recommended, and 32% non-submissions. HAS reimbursed 64%, restricted 9%, not reimbursed 14% and 14% were not assessed. Thus, positive reimbursement decisions^a for same manufacturer combinations were 50% and 67% in the UK and France. By contrast, combinations with different manufacturers received positive decisions in 23% and 64% of UK and France appraisals, respectively

Brand-Brand combinations - different manufacturer
(n=22)



Brand-Brand combinations - same manufacturer
(n=6)



Not submitted/ Terminated
 Terminated (UK)
 Not recommended/ Not reimbursed
 CDF restricted (UK)
 Restricted
 CDF recommended
 Recommended/ Reimbursed

Conclusions

- Our results demonstrate that branded combination products have a higher positive reimbursement recommendation rate in France vs. UK
- A substantially lower recommendation rate was observed for branded combination products of different manufacturers vs. same manufacturers in the UK but not in France
- This can be potentially attributed to NICE's evaluation being driven by cost-effectiveness, whereas HAS evaluation is purely focused on clinical benefit

Notes: a. Positive reimbursement decisions defined as 'recommended' or 'recommended in CDF' for NICE and any SMR above 'not sufficient' for HAS; **Abbreviations:** CDF: Cancer Drugs Fund; EU: European Union; HAS: French National Authority for Health; NICE: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; TC: Transparency Committee; UK: United Kingdom