NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

SUSTAIN HTA

HTA231

Review of HTA methods across Europe to identify HTA body needs and priorities for methods research

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Background

There can be a disparity between the development of new HTA methods and the actual uptake of those methods in HTA. The Horizon Europe SUSTAIN-HTA project aims to create a sustainable framework to understand the needs of European HTA bodies for new innovative HTA methods and tools and align those with the development of methods and tools by academic groups. The project will support better alignment between scientific developments and the needs of decision-makers and related stakeholders, ensure new methods are fit-for-purpose and that end-users (HTA bodies) are enabled to use the methods in their practice. This review aims to identify the current methods being used by HTA bodies and support a wider gap analysis as part of the foundational work of SUSTAIN-HTA.

What we did and why

A pragmatic targeted review of published methods guides from national HTA bodies and HTA Regulation (HTAR) Coordination Group documentation was carried out. The review aimed to identify specific HTA methods and associated tools (e.g., checklists, templates, tools) that are cited in current HTA methods guides to elucidate where potential methods gaps exist.

Methods were categorised by their primary purpose; methods for assessing relative effectiveness evidence (REA), cost-effectiveness evidence (CEA), and methods to incorporate other evidence into the assessment (e.g., budget impact, patient preferences). The domains and elements from the EUnetHTA core model[1] were used as a framework to guide the data extraction and thematic analysis.

This review included guidance documents from 35 HTA bodies across Europe and 5 HTAR coordination group documents.

Outcomes and impact

For REA, methods were frequently cited for evidence synthesis (indirect comparison, assessing heterogeneity, meta-analysis, network meta-analysis and qualitative synthesis), and checklists to validate primary and secondary evidence. However, manuals less frequently cited specific methods for missing data, real world evidence (RWE) and natural history.

For CEA, methods were frequently cited in areas of estimating costs, utility mapping, approaches to modelling and sensitivity analysis. Areas where methods were cited less include incorporating wider considerations, RWE and extrapolating outcomes.

In terms of approaches to incorporate other evidence into assessments, limited methods were cited for ethical and legal considerations, and patient preferences.

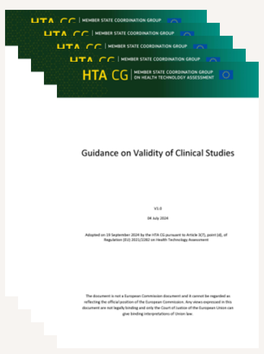
What we learnt

Many HTA methods documents are process led, with variability amongst HTA bodies in the extent to which they cite published methods. However, the review does identify areas of common methods that are often referenced.

Using the results from this review, an implementation review will be carried out on a sample of published HTA reports to examine the methods being implemented in HTA practice. This will target specific, high-priority technologies (e.g., ATMPs, high-risk medical devices) or therapeutic areas (e.g., cancer).

Other ongoing activities in SUSTAIN-HTA include identifying methodological needs of HTA bodies and current developments in HTA methods. This review and these other activities will be used to prioritize HTA methods and tools for implementation and further development.

Phase 1
A review of current methods for HTA in Europe



National HTA methods guides from 35 European HTA bodies

Data were extracted from HTA R Coordination Group documentation and national HTA methods guides from European HTA bodies. Data were extracted and analysed using the domains and elements as outlined in the EUnetHTA core model.

Phase 2
A review of implementation of methods in HTA practice

Identify sample of national HTA reports

ATMPs | Cancer Medicines | High risk devices

Review of implementation of methods in HTA practice

Final report: A review of HTA methods across Europe to identify the unmet needs of HTA organisations and their priorities for methods research

References:
1. EUnetHTA Joint Action 2, Work Package 8. HTA Core Model ® version 3.0 (Pdf); 2016.

SUSTAIN-HTA

Support Utilisation of Sustainable and TAilored INnovative methods for HTA is a European initiative to build a supporting infrastructure to ensure ongoing implementation of the latest and most fit-for-purpose HTA methodologies and tools in practice

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