

Increasing Termination Rates of NICE Technology and Highly Specialized Technology Appraisals

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Objectives

This study investigated the termination rates of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals (TAs) and highly specialized technologies (HSTs) across all disease areas, with a focus on oncology and rare diseases, and aimed to explain the observed trends.

Results

The overall termination rate was 3% in 2018, rising sharply to 19% in 2019 and increasing to 23% in 2020. It slightly fluctuated in subsequent years: 21% in 2021, 24% in 2022, 18% in 2023, spiking to 25% up to 31 August 2024. Oncology termination rates were higher than the overall average for 4 out of 6 years, at 5% in 2018, 26% in 2019, 18% in 2020, 24% in 2021, 25% in 2022, 19% in 2023, and 23% in 2024 up to 31 August. Rare disease termination rates were also notably high for products routed to TA, with rates of 3% in 2018, 28% in 2019, 29% in 2020, 27% in 2021, 43% in 2022, 35% in 2023, and 33% up to 31 August 2024. Rare disease termination rates were consistently higher than the overall rates each year, often by a significant margin, with the highest difference in 2022 at 19 percentage points above the overall rate. No HSTs were terminated between 2018 and 2024.

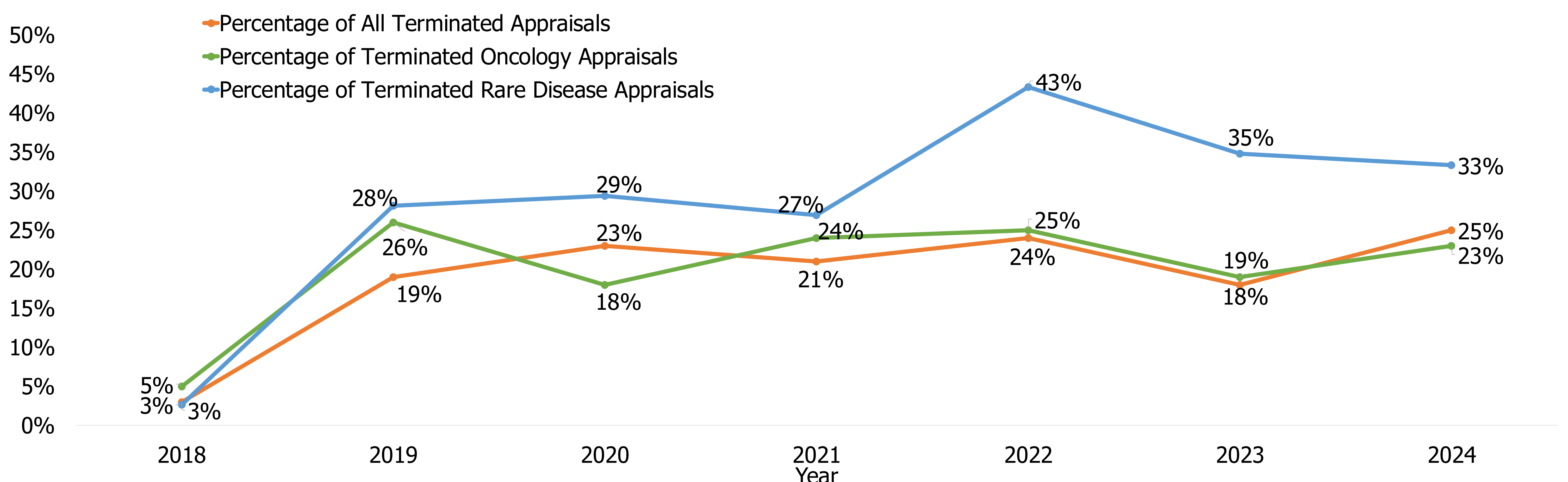
Methods

A retrospective analysis was conducted on NICE TAs and HSTs published between January 2018 and 31 August 2024. The disease area and outcome of each appraisal were examined, and the annual termination rates were calculated.

Conclusion

Increasing termination rates coincide with introduction of the 2019 Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing and Access, whereby NICE became responsible for evaluating all new active substances (NAS). Consequently, many new treatments entered the NICE work program irrespective of whether companies were planning a UK launch. Additionally, NICE appears to have taken a more proactive approach to terminate appraisals that are not progressing. Thus, the higher post-2019 termination rates could be attributed to changes in the Voluntary Scheme and NICE's proactive approach to manage its work program. With all NAS now referred to NICE there is a new benchmark for comparing future termination rates.

Figure 1: Percentage of Terminated Appraisals By Year



Bibliography:

- MAP Patient Access HTA database and trends analysis. Selected charts available at: <https://www.mappatientaccess.com>
- Data on NICE technology appraisals and highly specialized technology appraisals drawn from NICE at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

