

International Scientific and Practical Conference *Health Technology Assessment Development in the Eurasian Economic Union* held on April 27-28, 2017 in Astana, the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The conference was devoted to the issues of developing the health technology assessment (hereinafter referred to as HTA) system and funding innovative and costly health technologies in the Eurasian Economic Union (hereinafter referred to as the EAEU) countries.

Today's healthcare development in most countries faces the challenge of constant growth of healthcare costs due to the expanding range of diagnostic and treatment methods, and growing expectations and needs as well as the irreversible aging of the population.

There is a global problem of effective budget expenditure in the setting of limited financial resources allocated for the healthcare system. To that end essential changes in regulation of accessibility of new health technologies, drugs and medical products acquired at the expense of public funds take place.

One of the most reliable, rational and feasible approaches to support healthcare decisions is HTA.

HTA consists of assessment clinical effectiveness and economic evaluation of new and existing health technologies and is adopted in more than 60 countries. HTA activities are strongly supported by the European Union (EU), the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

Today there is a number of organizations and associations conducting health technology assessment (HTA agencies) in the world. One of the most authoritative of them is the European network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) consolidating all the European HTA agencies and implementing projects aimed at harmonizing approaches to HTA. These kind of projects become of great importance due to the intensifying of integration processes across the post-Soviet territory, establishing of the Customs Union and regional Chapters of forms CIS countries in the Eurasian Union and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research (ISPOR).

HTA integration into decision-making system is strongly supported by the World Health Organization as well.

Thus, HTA has been accepted politically and shaped structurally in almost every developed and many developing countries of the world, with both common features and differences in these activities being observed.

Considering the importance of on-going changes and prospects for further development of HTA system in the EAEU countries, Astana hosted the *Health Technology Assessment Development in the Eurasian Economic Union* conference with international participation.

This event was aimed at consolidating HTA efforts in the EAEU, establishing an expert platform for determining further development route and prospects and possibilities for HTA integration in the EAEU countries as well as educating on basic HTA principles.

The conference has been organized by the ISPOR Kazakhstan and ISPOR Russia HTA Chapters and was supported by the Eurasian Economic Commission Board, the Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member Nations. The event is expected to be attended by leading EU and EAEU experts in HTA and drug provision as well as representatives of ministries of healthcare and medical insurance funds of the EAEU member countries and the Russian Federation.

**Topics discussed:**

- funding of drug provision (specifics and market access stages) in the EAEU member countries;
- experience of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE);
- international experience in pricing of innovative drugs;
- application of multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) in the context of drugs interchangeability;
- key requirements to initiate HTA system functioning;
- international experience on integration in the field of HTA;
- perspectives for HTA integration in the EAEU.

Following the conference, a working group on the establishing of an HTA association (alliance) within the EAEU is planned to be formed.