



HTA: Policy and Principles

Week 1 – exercises

- 1) In the first presentation this week we looked at dictionary definitions of “health”, “technology” and “assess(ment)”. Definitions of “health technology” and “healthcare technology” also exist.
 - a) Search the internet for definitions of “health technology” and “healthcare technology”. Post up definitions (and the references/weblinks) on the discussion forum and examine with your fellow students the different definitions that you find.
 - b) How would you have defined a health technology before starting this programme? Has your understanding and viewpoint changed in light of your studies?
 - c) What definition(s) of “health technology” do you consider to be the best (and for what reason)? Is there anything that you would consider a health technology that does not fit in with these definitions?
- 2) In ‘HTA 101’, Box I-3, [1] various definitions of HTA are provided. The fourth listed definition states that “...Contextual factors addressed by HTA include economic, organizational, social, and ethical impacts...”. Can you think of any examples of ‘contextual factors’ that HTA addresses? Use the discussion forum to post and share your ideas with others.
- 3) A new definition of HTA was developed in 2020 [2]. How does this definition compare to those you studied in 2)? What are the main changes / developments?
- 4) These questions should be attempted in conjunction with reading Drummond *et al* [3]. Use the discussion forum to discuss your thoughts and answers with others.
 - a) Why should HTA not just be focussed on clinical outcomes?
 - b) Why should the HTA process be “unbiased and transparent”?
 - c) Ideally, all technologies should be subject to formal and rigorous assessment. Why?
 - d) How should priorities for HTA be set?
 - e) Why can “narrow perspectives” distort HTAs?
 - f) It is argued in the paper that HTA is not a “one-shot” activity – what is your understanding of this?

- [1] Goodman CS. HTA 101: Introduction to Health Technology Assessment. Bethesda, MD: National Library of Medicine (US); 2014 https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hta101/HTA_101_FINAL_7-23-14.pdf
- [2] O'Rourke *et al.* The new definition of health technology assessment: A milestone in international collaboration. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care* 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462320000215>
- [3] Drummond MF *et al.* Key principles for the improved conduct of health technology assessments for resource allocation decisions. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care* 2008;24:244-258. <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=1923460&fileId=S0266462308080343>