Giving Patient Advocates a Voice

in Health Technology Assessment

EAfPA
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Defining the value of medicine can be complex.

Many countries rely upon what's known as health technology assessment to make coverage decisions. Health economists consider available data, often clinical trials data, to assess the financial value of a medication, diagnostic or device.

But the lived experiences of people with the disease in question are also important. Patients and advocates must be active participants in the health technology assessment process.

Health Technology Assessment Organisations by Country

Begin by identifying the health technology assessment organisation in your country or region.

France	• National Authority of Health, Commission de la Transparence
Germany	• G-BA – Federal Joint Committee • IqWIG, or Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care
Italy	• AIFA – Italian Medicines Agency • AGENAS – National Agency for Regional Health Services
Spain	• AETS-ISCIII – Health Technology Assessment Agency, Carlos III Institute. • There are also 7 regional HTA entities.
United Kingdom	• NICE, or National Institute for Health and Care Excellence • SMC - Scottish Medicines Consortium • AWMSG - All Wales Medical Strategy Group

How You Can Engage

Make a suggestion.

If there's a medication that shows promise for people living with your disease, ask the health technology assessment organisation in your country to prioritise its review. You can also suggest measures for the evaluation to include.

Submit evidence.

Patients and advocacy organisations can submit research or information to supplement trials data. Consider sharing survey results, written testimonies or other insights that your organisation has collected. These help define disease burden and illustrate patients' needs, especially those of rare disease patients.

Provide input.

Most health technology assessment organisations allow for patient input, whether that's by submitting a form, participating in a survey, submitting a written comment or participating in a one-on-one interview.

Become a member.

Some countries allow patient representatives to join health technology assessment committees or working groups. This can be a valuable opportunity to get involved in the process and elevate the patient experience.

Join the meeting.

After they collect evidence, health technology assessment organisations convene to discuss the value of the proposed medication or device. Depending upon the country, patients and advocates may be able attend meetings and volunteer testimony.

Follow up.

Look for a health technology assessment report at the end of the process. Some countries also outline how they have incorporated patients' input into the assessment.

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