

## PD190 The Brazilian Health Technology Assessment Network Strategy: Capacity Building And Its Importance For The Sustainability Of The Public Health System

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**Introduction:** The Brazilian Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Network (REBRATS) dates to 2008, when the Ministry of Health (MoH) launched a call to register Brazil's first HTA groups to promote and disseminate HTA in the country. To understand whether this strategy is succeeding, this paper evaluated the actions of REBRATS and the degree of advancement of the HTA field in Brazil.

**Methods:** The following data on the composition of REBRATS were collected and analyzed: the number of HTA groups and professionals registered in the network, the number of professionals that have benefited from qualifying courses, and the evolution of the Brazilian National Committee for Health Technology Incorporation (CONITEC).

**Results:** REBRATS expanded from 24 HTA groups to 112 groups in 2023, which includes over 800 professionals. From 2019 to 2023, the MoH financed over 90 courses, which have benefited more than 1,000 professionals. More HTA groups (from five to 23) have been hired to support CONITEC, enabling it to respond to a higher demand and more complex topics. These groups have been contributing to the development of HTA by assisting the MoH in defining a cost-effectiveness threshold; evolving the assessment of medical devices and new technologies (i.e., gene and targeted therapies); and creating methodological guideline—there will be 21 by 2024.

**Conclusions:** Although the composition and technical capability of its member groups vary greatly, REBRATS has consolidated itself as a key strategy to support decision-making regarding technologies.

## PD191 Global Disparities In Bariatric Surgery Reimbursement: A Comparative Analysis Of 23 Countries

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**Introduction:** Bariatric surgery is a weight loss procedure that supports significant and long-term weight loss for individuals with severe obesity by altering the digestive system. It improves health conditions associated with obesity and can be life changing. The purpose of the study was to examine the reimbursement criteria for bariatric surgery in certain countries.

**Methods:** A detailed review was conducted on bariatric surgery reimbursement criteria across 23 countries, analyzing official policies and guidelines from databases and government websites. The study compared national data to highlight similarities and differences in these criteria, offering insights into the varying reimbursement approaches for bariatric surgery internationally.

**Results:** The research compared global reimbursement policies for bariatric surgery, revealing that Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Türkiye, and the UK support reimbursement for those with a body mass index over 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. However, Hungary, Nigeria, Libya, and Romania do not offer such reimbursements. This discrepancy highlights the diverse healthcare approaches to severe obesity treatment across countries. The absence of financial support in some regions indicates varying health priorities and economic constraints. These findings emphasize the need for harmonized global health policies, especially for obesity, which is a significant public health issue.

**Conclusions:** The study highlights substantial disparities in bariatric surgery reimbursement criteria across countries. These differences, despite the proven benefits of treating severe obesity and related health issues, suggest a need for more standardized reimbursement approaches. Future research should explore the specific conditions and requirements for reimbursement and how these policies impact access to and outcomes of bariatric surgery.

## PD192 Criteria For Decision-Making In Health Economic Evaluations: An Analysis Of Global Practices

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**Introduction:** Economic criteria have become critical for health technology assessment (HTA) due to the rising costs of health technologies. The use of explicit, predefined criteria for economic evaluations enhances the transparency, objectivity, and predictability of the process. We aimed to identify which organizations worldwide integrate explicit and predefined criteria into their health economic analyses during HTA.

**Methods:** We conducted a scoping review to identify organizations responsible for HTA processes at the national level in any country. The identification of eligible organizations was carried out by reviewing members of the EUnetHTA, HTAsiaLink, INAHTA, and RedETSA networks as well as organizations evaluated in reviews

with a similar scope. For each eligible organization, information was extracted on the inclusion of economic factors during decision-making and the existence of predefined criteria for judging the results of economic evaluations.

**Results:** Sixty-nine organizations from 56 countries were identified, of which 66 (96%) considered economic factors for HTA. Fifty-two (79%) organizations conducted cost-effectiveness analyses, 42 (64%) assessed budget impact, and one focused solely on total technology costs. Thirty-four organizations (51%) declare not having criteria for economic evaluation, whereas 14 (21%) from 12 countries had explicit criteria. There were no data found for 18 organizations (27%). Among the organizations with explicit criteria, 11 (17%) applied willingness-to-pay thresholds in cost-effectiveness evaluations and five (8%) applied criteria related to budget impact for decision-making, such as a maximum percentage of budget impact.

**Conclusions:** Although most organizations consider economic factors for HTA, many do not have explicit, predefined criteria for decision-making. Among those that presented such criteria, willingness-to-pay thresholds for cost-effectiveness analyses were the most common. The findings of this study also help to identify complementary factors that can be considered to promote greater systematization and transparency in the decision-making process.

## PD193 Submission Processes And Requirements For Health Technology Assessment In Australia, Canada, England, France, And Germany

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**Introduction:** As health technology assessment (HTA) bodies introduce more rigorous requirements, the submission process is becoming increasingly diverse between countries. This study assessed the HTA submission processes and requirements in Australia, Canada, England, France, and Germany. This helps identify where efficiencies can be made in the global market access strategy, such as when to submit HTA dossiers.

**Methods:** A pragmatic review and desk-based research were conducted in November 2023. Published articles, HTA guidelines, process documents, conference abstracts, and white papers were reviewed to identify country-specific processes with implications for market access strategy. Where available, information was extracted about the general submission process and stakeholders involved (including regulatory, HTA, and pricing authorities), clinical evidence requirements, and pharmacoeconomic evidence requirements for HTA submission. Comparisons of the median time from marketing authorization to HTA decision within each country allowed the identification of efficiencies in individual HTA submission processes. The key findings and between-country differences were summarized narratively.

**Results:** The review identified several areas with implications for market access strategy. The median HTA review time was shortest in Australia (125 days) and longest in England (266 days). Australia and Canada have both sequential and parallel regulatory and HTA processes. The median time taken from regulatory approval to HTA recommendation was faster with the parallel process than with the sequential process in both countries. All countries required comparative clinical evidence within the indication. The weight placed on pharmacoeconomic evidence varied between countries. In Germany, economic evaluation has yet to play a real role. Requirements for additional information after HTA submission occurred within all HTA bodies.

**Conclusions:** HTA processes in Australia, Canada, England, France, and Germany differ from one another. This will likely affect the market access strategy for health technology developers. Similar requirements allow efficiencies in the preparation of submission documentation. Future research should investigate the impact of the European Union HTA regulation on market access and how this could affect strategic decision-making.

## PD194 The Scenario Of Hospital-Based Health Technology Assessment In Brazil, Italy, And Poland

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**Introduction:** Hospital-based health technology assessment (HB-HTA) is evolving constantly. In 2023, a survey was conducted by the HB-HTA Interest Group of Health Technology Assessment International with the aim of collecting data on HB-HTA activities, including perceptions of the role of, potential for, and barriers to HB-HTA. Overall, 87 responses were collected: 41 from hospitals performing health technology assessment (HTA), 18 from hospitals not conducting HTA, and 28 from policymakers.

**Methods:** The survey collected data from 28 countries. Italy, Poland, Brazil provided the highest number of responses. We conducted a descriptive comparative analysis focusing on these three countries to investigate whether and how the policies for HB-HTA, the activities of HB-HTA, and the perceptions of HB-HTA differed among policymakers and hospitals not performing HTA.

**Results:** Overall, 19 responses were collected from Italy and 10 each were collected from Brazil and Poland. While Italy (n=10) and Brazil (n=8) had a high number of responses from hospitals performing HB-HTA, most of the responses from Poland (n=9) were from hospitals not performing HTA. There was a lack of policies for HB-HTA in all three countries. HTA was performed in big hospitals ( $\geq 500$  beds) in Italy and Brazil. HB-HTA covered all kinds of technologies, including digital health. In Poland, hospitals not conducting HTA recognized the ability of HB-HTA to promote cost containment. Policymakers were open to including HB-HTA in their activities.