

## 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