


Health Technology Assessment

Over recent years, growth in healthcare spending within Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries has exceeded overall economic growth. This trend, coupled with concerns about the superior benefits of some new medicines over existing, often cheaper medicines, has prompted healthcare payers to resort to various methods to contain drug costs. Many countries are now considering Health Technology Assessment (HTA), which refers to the process of using existing evidence to evaluate the clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and broader impact of a health technology on patients and the healthcare system as a more rational means of determining the clinical and economic benefits of new medicines.

Novartis Position

Novartis believes that Health Technology Assessment (HTA) represents an important means to enable governments and other health payers to develop mechanisms for evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of medicines and other health technologies. We also believe that innovative medicines offer a cost-effective means of treating and preventing ill health, and we are committed to provide governments and other health payers with timely, accurate and detailed information to demonstrate the clinical and cost-effectiveness of our medicines.

Novartis believes that HTA should be guided by 12 key principles: (1) HTAs should be based on a clear, sophisticated and differentiated view of what constitutes value; (2) HTAs should be transparent and balanced; (3) HTAs should be based on early and inclusive dialogue, including with patients; (4) evaluations should allow new data to be considered; (5) flexibility is required in handling uncertainty; (6) comprehensive understanding of the benefits of a medicine in disease management is needed; (7) payers should commit to rewarding added value; (8) HTA outcomes should be implemented; (9) HTA should apply to all healthcare interventions, not just medicines; (10) appraisal should take place at the national level; (11) HTA should remain separate from regulatory review; and (12) evaluations should take into account all benefits, direct as well as indirect.



Novartis believes that healthcare spending is an investment, not just a cost, and that health outcomes research offers a means to identify and demonstrate value. We strongly believe that HTA should not be used as a means to delay or exclude new medicines from reaching patients. We urge that governments and other healthcare payers conduct HTAs guided by a clear, transparent set of key principles, such as those outlined above, which provide a solid basis to ensure efficient allocation of healthcare resources.