

Fact Sheet: Unified HTA pathway and triaged submissions



The HTA Review recommends a unified HTA pathway to align and remove duplication between different pathways, committees and processes, working towards a 'single front door' with a triaging mechanism to support faster patient access to new medicines.

The HTA Review recommends that all HTA processes and pathways be guided by the following three principles: streamlined and simple; proportionate and fit-for-purpose; and unified and consistent (Recommendation 3).

To realise the vision of Recommendation 3, the Review recommends development of a unified HTA pathway (Recommendation 4), with a staged approach to implementation covering the following reforms:

- A unified HTA advisory committee approach, including changes to the committee composition and scope to enable it to consider the full breadth of health technologies before ultimately developing a single unified committee approach (Recommendation 4).
- A triaging committee to confirm an appropriate and proportionate pathway, HTA advisory committee, PICO approach and HTA meeting date (Recommendation 5).
- An expanded advisory role for the PBAC beyond the PBS, so that it can make HTA recommendations for a broader range of health technologies across different funding and subsidy programs (including the Life Saving Drugs Program, co-dependent health technologies funded on the PBS and MBS, and Highly Specialised Therapies funded through the National Health Reform Agreement). (Recommendation 6).
- A restructured pathway for listing vaccines on the National Immunisation Program (Recommendation 11).

These reforms will clarify the appropriate pathway for a technology from the start and will ensure submissions are assessed according to what is most appropriate for the technology, regardless of the ultimate funding body. This will reduce duplication and effort and will direct resources to more complex submissions where they are most needed, to ultimately speed up patient access and reduce costs.

Industry's roadmap of reforms called for a unified, simplified, and proportionate approach to HTA, and these recommendations deliver. We support the overarching principles and the proposed program of reforms that underpin much needed transformation of Australia's HTA system. This will need to be a collaborative and co-designed approach with all stakeholders.