

13 November 2017
EMA/661613/2017
Human Medicines Research and Development Support Division

EMA-EUnetHTA three-year work plan 2017–2020

Introduction

The EMA-EUnetHTA collaboration, which began in 2010 based on recommendations from the High-level Pharmaceutical Forum¹, aims to harness synergies between regulatory evaluation and health technology assessment (HTA) along the lifecycle of a medicine. Following initial work to improve the way data published by EU regulators as part of their benefit-risk assessment can contribute to relative effectiveness assessments by HTA organisations, additional topics of mutual interest were identified.

A first EMA-EUnetHTA work plan had been established for the years 2012-2015; a [report](#) on the outcomes of this joint work plan has been published in April 2016. Following up on the achievements and developments, a new joint work plan for the years 2017-2020 has been agreed. The overall goal of the collaboration is to improve efficiency and quality of processes, whilst respecting their respective remits and ensure mutual understanding and dialogue on evidence needs, to facilitate access to medicines for patients in the European Union.

Areas for the EMA-EUnetHTA collaboration

EMA and EUnetHTA have jointly identified several areas as focus of their European regulatory-HTA collaboration during 2017-2020. The three-year work plan is complementary to actions foreseen in EUnetHTA Joint Action 3, which runs until 2020. Furthermore, the activities in this work plan will feed into the implementation of the areas for collaboration identified in the reflection paper from the HTA network on Synergies between regulatory and HTA issues on pharmaceuticals and will be developed in close cooperation with the European Commission.

The identified priority areas for collaboration are:

- Early Dialogue / Scientific Advice.
- “Late dialogues” / peri-licensing advice.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/healthcare/competitiveness/pharmaceutical-forum/index_en.htm

See websites for contact details

European Medicines Agency www.ema.europa.eu

EUnetHTA www.eunetha.eu



- Information exchange between regulators and HTA bodies.
- Methodologies to identify the treatment eligible population.
- Significant benefit vs. added therapeutic value for orphan medicines.
- Unmet medical need and therapeutic innovation for priority setting.
- Patient and clinician engagement.
- Shared understanding of methodological approaches for design, analysis and interpretation of clinical trials and observational studies.
- Population-specific or Intervention-specific areas.

Progress on the EMA-EUnetHTA work plan will be monitored and updates will be made when deemed necessary by both parties. The EMA-EUnetHTA collaboration will continuously explore future directions and areas for cooperation, whilst respecting their respective remits.

Activities in each of the areas of collaboration

Activity	Expected outcomes
Early Dialogue / Scientific Advice	
Design and implement a single, common, European procedure for Parallel Consultation (previously known as parallel scientific advice/early dialogue)	A single process that reflects the evidence generation needs of both regulators and HTABs Milestones for launch of single platform for parallel consultation and process reviews Communication with stakeholders at each critical design change
Facilitate learning and understanding of evidence needs	Mutual observership in scientific advice / early dialogue
“Late dialogues” / peri-licensing advice	
Gaining experience with peri-licensing advice on post-licensing data generation plans with a focus on specific products (e.g., ATMPs) or regulatory processes or tools (e.g., CMA, Adaptive Pathways, or PRIME)	Provision of parallel consultation on requirements for post-authorisation data collection plans (including registries)
Optimise utilisation of post-licensing evidence generation for decision making	Collaboration in requirements for data collection and analysis of real world data including registries
Information exchange between regulators and HTA bodies	
Timely provision of the outcome of the regulatory assessment to support joint REA production	Implement a process for the exchange at market authorisation (including timely provision of the REA) to support EUnetHTA joint REAs and align with the needs of most national HTA programmes.

Activity	Expected outcomes
	Provision of information regarding joint REAs at EMA's pre-submission meetings
Respecting the remit and perspectives of both regulators and HTABs, create a mechanism for reciprocal learning opportunities between regulatory reviewers and HTA assessors.	Increased understanding of the regulatory outcome by HTA assessor Increased understanding of the HTA outcome by regulatory reviewers
Further optimisation of the regulatory output to facilitate uptake of regulatory outcome by HTAB	Review of the CHMP assessment report template to address findings from the webinars as appropriate
Methodologies to identify the treatment eligible population	
Share experience on how regulators define therapeutic indications and the impact of their wordings in HTABs' definition of the treatment-eligible population.	Clarity on the patient population covered by the approved indication, for the subsequent REA
Mutual understanding of the extrapolation concept, including its application for the paediatric population	Discussion and exchange, in parallel with respective guideline development
Significant benefit vs. added therapeutic value for orphan medicines	
Understanding of the similarities and differences between the concepts of significant benefit and added therapeutic value in the context of orphan drugs	Clarity on the concepts for individual products
Exchange on product specific reviews at time of authorisation	Increased transparency and understanding of the review of significant benefit
Unmet medical need and therapeutic innovation for priority setting	
Explore how HTABs and regulators interpret the concepts of unmet medical need and therapeutic innovation	A greater understanding of the respective interpretations with the aim of enabling mutually shared perspectives for individual products
Explore opportunities to collaborate on monitoring of new medicines' approvals ("horizon scanning")	Clarification of expectations and potential synergies of monitoring approaches by regulators and HTA bodies
Patient and clinician engagement	
Share respective practices and experiences related to the involvement of patients and clinicians in activities	Mutual learning concerning practices for engagement with patients and clinicians in assessment activities
Assess the feasibility of developing a shared pool/list of contacts	Better utilisation of expertise from patients and clinicians across decision makers

Activity	Expected outcomes
Shared understanding of methodological approaches for design, analysis and interpretation of clinical trials and observational studies	
Provision of guidance on evidence needs for regulators and HTA bodies, through therapeutic-area-specific guidance, methodological guidance, non-product specific qualification advice and opinions, workshops.	<p>Collaboration in order to allow developers to generate evidence able to address both regulatory and HTA information needs</p> <p>Training to assessors (regulators and HTAs), including potential use of EUNTC as platform to include HTA assessors</p>
Better utilization of patient-reported outcomes as part of evidence generation plans	Joint position on the principles for development and validation of patient reported outcomes
Population-specific or Intervention-specific areas	
Address the specific needs for paediatric medicines	Engagement in existing research networks like Enpr-EMA
Share practices and experiences with combination products/companion diagnostics	In alignment also with the IVD regulation, establish ways to engage on development programmes also involving Notified Bodies
Share information and experiences with ATMPs	<p>Increased understanding of regulatory processes for ATMPs</p> <p>Increased understanding of the reimbursement landscape for ATMPs</p>

Regular EMA-EUnetHTA joint meetings

EMA-EUnetHTA meetings will be held on a half-year basis and hosted interchangeably by the EMA and EUnetHTA. Minutes of the meetings will be made publicly available on the websites of the EMA and EUnetHTA.