

Roche Position on Health Technology Assessment

Background

At Roche, we develop innovative medicines that help patients live longer, better lives. As science advances, more technologies are becoming available with the potential to improve outcomes for patients. In order to maximise the equitable distribution of new technology, healthcare systems need to be able to determine the value that they could deliver to patients.

This evidenced-based approach to determining value and informing decision-making, known as health technology assessment (HTA), is growing in importance across the world. Countries are striving towards the goal of universal health coverage for their populations, while balancing increasing demands for finite resources. Most countries now have some form of HTA process in place.

However, the speed of scientific progress, and the promise of personalised healthcare delivering the right treatment for the right patient at the right time for the right value, means that HTA systems are continually facing the need to evaluate new paradigms in medicine. In order to support this process, at Roche¹, we believe that evolving HTA in partnership with a broad spectrum of healthcare stakeholders is key for both patients, society and healthcare systems.

We are living in an era of unprecedented medical innovation and systems to evaluate the benefit of these new technologies need to further evolve.

Our approach to health technology assessment

Underlying this belief is a firm commitment to ensuring broad, rapid, sustainable patient access to our innovations. We therefore actively participate in discussions about the assessment, appraisal, and reimbursement of innovations that are intended to improve outcomes through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

HTA is an important evidence-based tool to inform reimbursement and other health decisions. At Roche, we support the definition of HTA co-developed by the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) and Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi).

¹ Please note that this position has not been developed for medical devices or diabetes care products.

This states that the purpose of HTA is “to inform decision-making in order to promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality health system.”

As a global company, Roche is working with national healthcare systems across the world to ensure our innovations in medicine can be available to the patients who need them.

We see multiple approaches to HTA in use, and we appreciate that different healthcare systems are at different stages in their development of HTA approaches. There is no one-size-fits-all HTA model. Indeed, HTA should help decision-makers understand the outcomes and value of a health technology in the context of their local health system, factoring in unmet need and national priorities.

We see three elements as crucial to achieving a fit-for-purpose, flexible and future-focused HTA system:

- 1. Integrating diverse stakeholder perspectives early into clear and consistent HTA processes.** Through formal, consistent and inclusive approaches to HTA we can increase fairness and transparency when assessing the outcomes delivered by health innovations, ensuring that the views of all health stakeholders are captured and reflected in decision-making.
- 2. Augmenting scientific assessment with a more holistic view.** To ensure that innovation is able to reach those who need it, decision-making can be strengthened by supplementing scientific assessments with the perspectives of patients and caregivers. This enables innovations that deliver the outcomes that matter most to patients, clinicians and society to be prioritised, and supports our global commitment to having a positive impact on society and the environment.
- 3. Adopting a scientific, rational, and adaptable approach.** Scientific approaches to assessing technologies, that consider all appropriate evidence, are commonplace around the world. Yet, these approaches also need to be flexible and adaptable; able to take into account local priorities and respond to new evidence that emerges over time.

Roche recognises that health systems around the world are at different stages of their HTA development with a number of established and nascent systems in operation. We see these three elements as being crucial for both nascent and established HTA systems to inform every aspect of their approach to HTA, from governance to how innovative health technologies will be assessed.

Through the application of these principles, HTA systems around the world will be able to adapt to best suit local needs while ensuring consistency and rigour in their approach to evaluating innovative health technologies. This will be vital to ensuring that patients, clinicians and companies are able to have confidence that decisions made are transparent, objective and robust.

Roche aims to be a trusted partner, supporting HTA stakeholders to adopt and evolve approaches to ensure that they are locally appropriate and innovation-ready. In addition, we remain committed to working in partnership earlier, during the development of our clinical programmes, to ensure the needs of HTA systems are better taken into account, also for future health investments by the HCSs.

We believe such collaborative partnerships are crucial to creating a fair, consistent and transparent environment and to securing access to life-changing technologies for the patients who need them.

This position paper was elaborated by Global Access and approved by the Sustainability Steering Committee in October 30, 2020. It was adopted by the Corporate Executive Committee in December 2020 and entered into force the same day.