**Survey questions.**

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***Section 1: The purpose of HTA nowaday*s**

*According to Schokkaert*: "The purpose of health technology assessment (HTA) is to offer useful input into this process [for decision makers] so as to increase the quality of the deliberations and of the resulting decisions". (Schokkaert, 2015)

In order to offer useful input for decision makers, how do you agree on the importance for HTA full reports to consider the following needs?

(*Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree / No answer*)

- The need for decision-makers to **base their decisions on solid scientific evidence**.

- The need for decision-makers to **base their decisions on an analysis of contextual information** like organizational, ethical and social issues.

- The need for **patients to have access to what justified** the decision-makers’ choices impacting on the patient’s medical condition and quality of life.

- The need for **citizens to have access to what justified** the decision-makers’ choices impacting on the healthcare system.

***Section 2: Making explicit the value-ladenness of the process of HTA***

*According to Oortwijn*: "Ethics related to the choices made with regard to hypotheses, evaluation design, outcome measures, and so on, when assessing a technology. These certainly are value-laden. For hypotheses and outcome measures are based on a specific notion about the merit of a technology, or what a technology should do to be valuable" (Oortwijn et al. 2004).

*Assuming* the following as a definition for value judgement: “a subjective judgement that estimates, with certain criteria, the worth, goodness, importance, etc. of consequences of an action and guides decision-making”,

Please specify at what degree of explicitness should value judgements be reported in the following sections of a full HTA report.

(*Highly explicit / Moderately explicit / Weakly explicit / Never explicit / No answer*)

- The reporting of **Scoping** in the introductory section, where decisions are made on: the overall objectives, the impacts examined, the included or excluded analyses in the production, consultation, etc.?

- The reporting of the **Efficacy analysis**, where decisions are made on: comparators, outcome measures, selection of studies to be included, the relative weighting of evidence, etc.?

- The reporting of the **Safety analysis**, where decisions are made on: outcome measures for safety, selection of included/excluded studies, evidence weighting, etc.?

- The reporting of the **Cost Effectiveness analysis**, where decisions are made on: outcome measures of cost and effectiveness (e.g. Cost/QALY), choice of comparators, selection of included/excluded data, conclusions’ validity, etc.?

- The reporting of the **Ethical analysis**, where decisions are made on: ethical approach selection, selection of included/excluded data, conclusions’ validity, etc.?

- The reporting of the **Recommendations**?

***Section 3: Ethical Analysis***

*Considering* that three types of ethical analysis were identified in HTA reports and in the HTA literature, namely:

***Descriptive ethics*:** whereby the aim is to raise ethical issues without analyzing them and to expose the different issues that the decision maker has to be aware of and cope with.

***Evaluative ethics*:** whereby the aim is to analyze and evaluate the issues, prioritizing underlying values, identifying conflicting value judgments and their respective justification.

***Prescriptive ethics*:** whereby the aim is to draw a line between what is acceptable or unacceptable technologies by means of a moral reasoning.

- Do you think the reported ethical analysis should:

(*Only be descriptive / Be descriptive and evaluative / Be descriptive / evaluative and prescriptive / No answer*)

- Who should be responsible for the type of ethical analysis you have identified in the previous question?

(*Typical HTA professionals / A team of HTA professionals including an ethicist / An expert in ethics / No answer*)

- Do you agree with the following statement?

“Ethical analysis is a specific field of inquiry so its results should be presented in a separate section like effectiveness, safety and cost”.

(*Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree / No answer*)

**Section 4: Aims of the HTA reports**

Do you agree with the following statements proposing these aims for HTA?

(*Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree / No answer*)

- “HTA process and reports should **concentrate on one phase**: assessment, which includes epidemiological studies, the collection of all available scientific information (e.g., literature review, cost-effectiveness analyses) and then a subsequent analysis and final synthesis.”

Please choose only one of the following answers:

- “HTA process and reports should be described as a **combination of two phases**: 1) assessment, which includes epidemiological studies, the collection of all available scientific information (e.g., literature review, cost-effectiveness analyses) and then a subsequent analysis and synthesis; and 2) appraisal, in which contextualized data are gathered and recommendations made.”

- “HTA process and reports should be as a **combination of three phases**: 1) assessment, which include epidemiological studies - the collection of all available scientific information (e.g., literature review, cost-effectiveness analyses) - and a subsequent analysis and synthesis; 2) contextual data, including ethical analyses and qualitative studies on patients and citizens perspective, organizational changes etc. and a subsequent analysis and synthesis; and 3) recommendations with their justifications grounded in the first two phases.”

**Section 5: Participatory approaches in the production of recommendations**

The conclusions of the different analyses (efficacy, safety, cost-effectiveness and ethical) will provide a given value to the different findings, which could necessitate trade-offs between their relative values in order to reach specific recommendations.

To which extent do you think the following participatory approaches could be useful for this matter?

(*Very useful / Useful / Moderately useful / Not very useful / No answer*)

- **Patients** involvement

- **Public-Citizens** involvement

- **Stakeholders** involvement