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The European regulation on Health Technology Assessment Balancing European and National Levels

Aurélie Mahalatchimy,¹ Joséphine Juët,² Blanka Bartos,³ Florence Taboulet⁴

¹ Permanent Researcher in law at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Faculty of Law, UMR 7318 International, Comparative and European law (DICE) CERIC, CNRS, Aix Marseille Univ., Toulon Univ. Pau & Pays de l'Adour Univ., Aix-en-Provence, 13628, France, ² Student in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master 2 Ethic and Research, Univ. Paul Sabatier - Toulouse 3, Toulouse, 31062, France, ³ PhD Student in law, CREDIMI, Univ. of Bourgogne, Dijon, 21777, France, ⁴ Professor in Pharmaceutical Law and Health Economics, CERPOP (Center for Epidemiology and Research in POPulation health), UMR 1295 Inserm, Univ. of Paul Sabatier- Toulouse 3, Toulouse, 31062, France. Acknowledgement: This work has been supported by ANR-funded I-BioLex project (ANR-20-CE26-0007-01, coord. A. Mahalatchimy).

In order to harmonize and optimize access to health technologies*, including gene and cell therapies, the European Union changed its legislation with the adoption of a new regulation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in December 2021.

*medicinal products, medical device or medical and surgical procedures, and measures for disease prevention, diagnosis or treatment used in healthcare

What is HTA? EU Regulation 2021/2282

“A multidisciplinary process that summarises information about the medical, patient and social aspects and the economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased and robust manner.”

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HTA conducted at national level

+ EU initiative → EUnetHTA (2006-2021): joint action, voluntary cooperation between 25 States

Consequences

- Redundancy of evaluation process
- Misallocation of resources
- Inequitable access to new technologies

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Harmonization of procedure

Regulation: Rolling implementation plan, preparatory phase

- Setting up the **HTA Coordination Group (HTACG)** and the **Stakeholder Network**
- Drafting implementing & delegated acts, and guidance documents

+ New **EUnetHTA 21**: 13 States work to support the continuation of the HTA process at a European level

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Step-by-step implementation

2025

Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products, cancer drugs

2028

Orphan medicines

2030

All health technologies

National level

- **National bodies** provide expert views on HTA
- **Member States** remain responsible for:
 - drawing conclusions on added value of health technologies for their health system
 - taking decisions on their pricing & reimbursement

European level

- **HTACG** manages the HTA process:
 - Joint clinical assessment (JCA)
 - Identification of emerging technologies
 - Joint scientific consultations
 - Voluntary cooperation
- **Stakeholder network** also supports HTACG's work, through exchange of scientific information
- **European Commission** supports HTACG's work, as the secretariat

- Regulation increases quality of joint work, and joint work increases quality of assessment.
- Better allocation of resources: reduced expenses for national bodies and the EU
- Improved accessibility to all medicines in the EU at medium and long term
- Among all processes, only joint clinical assessment will have to be taken into consideration at the national level.

Remaining challenges

- Building EU processes from national HTA experiences and feedback from experts
- Training more external experts / organisations on HTA in general, and on EU procedure(s)