



Title	Development of a Toolkit and Glossary to Aid in the Adaptation of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Reports for Use in Different Contexts
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Aim

To develop a health technology assessment (HTA) adaptation toolkit and glossary of adaptation terms for use by HTA agencies in EU member states.

Conclusions and results

These resources have been developed to help HTA agencies make better use of HTA reports produced elsewhere. Policy makers and clinicians could use these resources to aid in understanding HTA reports written for other contexts. The main implication of this work concerns the potential to adapt HTA reports. If utilized, this should release resources to enable development of further HTA reports. Recommendations for development of the toolkit include the potential to develop an interactive Web-based version and to extend the toolkit to facilitate the adaptation of HTA reports on diagnostic testing and screening. The resulting toolkit is a collection of resources, eg, checklists of questions on relevance, reliability, and transferability of data and information, and links to useful websites, that help the user assess whether data and information in HTA reports can be adapted for different settings. The toolkit is designed for the adaptation of evidence synthesis rather than primary research. The accompanying glossary provides descriptions of meanings for HTA adaptation terms from HTA agencies across Europe. It seeks to highlight differences in the use and understanding of each word by HTA agencies. The toolkit and glossary are available for use by all HTA agencies and can be accessed via www.eunetha.net.

Recommendations

The toolkit has implications for practice: 1) Preparation of HTA reports requires both time and financial resources. Adapting an existing HTA report may reduce the cost and time incurred in producing new reports. 2) This may lead to an increased potential for HTA organizations to have the resources available to report on a greater breadth of new health technologies.

Methods

The toolkit and glossary were developed by a partnership of 28 HTA agencies and networks across Europe (EUnetHTA work package 5), led by the UK's National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment (NCCHTA). Methods employed for the two resources were literature searching, a survey of adaptation experience, two rounds of a Delphi survey, meetings of the partnership and drawing on the expertise and experience of the partnership, two rounds of review, and two rounds of quality assurance testing. All partners were requested to provide input into each stage of development.

Further research/reviews required

Recommendations for further development of the toolkit are: 1) The toolkit is currently in a PDF version and there is the potential to develop an interactive Web-based version. 2) The toolkit could be extended to facilitate adaptation of HTA reports on diagnostic testing and screening. 3) There is scope for further testing, review, and improvement both within the EUnetHTA partnership and beyond to external organizations. 4) A wiki-version of the glossary could be developed. 5) More work could be undertaken to incorporate closer integration with other EUnetHTA outputs.