

# A handbook and a toolkit for hospital-based Health Technology Assessment

Laura Sampietro-Colom<sup>1</sup>, Krzysztof Lach<sup>2</sup>, Irene Escobar<sup>2</sup>, Sylwia Sroka<sup>2</sup>, Marcelo Soto<sup>2</sup>, Americo Cicchetti<sup>3</sup>, Brynjar Fure<sup>4</sup>, Rabia Kahveci<sup>5</sup>, Kristian Kidholm<sup>6</sup>, Raul-Allan Kiivet<sup>7</sup>, Iris Pasternack<sup>8</sup>, Magdalene Rossenmoller<sup>9</sup>, Jean-Blaise Wasserfallen<sup>10</sup>, Claudia Wild<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hospital Clínic de Barcelona (Spain); <sup>2</sup>Fundació Clínic per a la Recerca Biomèdica (Spain); <sup>3</sup>Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy); <sup>4</sup>Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (Norway); <sup>5</sup>Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital (Turkey); <sup>6</sup>Odense University Hospital (Denmark); <sup>7</sup>Tartu University Hospital (Estonia); <sup>8</sup>University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Hospital (Finland); <sup>9</sup>IESE Business School (Spain); <sup>10</sup>Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (Switzerland); <sup>11</sup>Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Health Technology Assessment (Austria);

## Hospital-based HTA (HB-HTA)

Organising and undertaking HTA in hospitals means providing decision-makers with contextualised assistance on how to make sound investment decisions on innovations, thus ensuring that good-value innovative health technologies reach clinical practice.

Hospital-based HTA means:

- tailoring HTA to specific hospital circumstances (comparators, how care is organised in the hospital, budget impact analysis,...),
- keeping a sharper focus on the health technologies that are specifically interesting for the hospital,
- timely adjustments to the hospital context,
- Working in collaboration with hospital decision-makers.



## The AdHopHTA project

The aim of AdHopHTA is to make available pragmatic knowledge and tools to facilitate the adoption of hospital-based HTA initiative, while contributing to build a European ecosystem for HTA "in" and "for" hospitals.

## The AdHopHTA methods and products

- 6 Literature reviews
- 107 face-2-face interviews
- 40 Case studies
- Large-scale survey = 163 respondents
- Focus group = 8 participants
- Delphi process = 36 participants
- Validation workshop = 11 panellists

**385**  
people from 20 different countries have provided their input.



## THE AdHopHTA HANDBOOK: Key observations

**1** Hospitals with an HB-HTA unit manage better the process of adoption of health technologies (e.g. less time and people involved)

**2** 4 Organisational models for HB-HTA

<b>INDEPENDENT GROUP</b> • provides support for managerial decisions in fairly informal way	<b>INTEGRATED-ESSENTIAL</b> • small HB-HTA units with limited staff involving many stakeholders and 'allies'
<b>STAND-ALONE</b> • formalised and specialised internal HB-HTA unit • not strongly influenced by national or regional HTA	<b>INTEGRATED-SPECIALISED</b> • HB-HTA unit formally collaborating with national or regional HTA • HTA-based recommendations often used by hospital decision-makers

**3** Informational needs of hospital decision-makers

DOMAINS	HTA CORE MODEL	HB-HTA CORE MODEL
	EUnetHTA	AdHopHTA
D1: Health problem and current use	• relevant	*** most important
D2: Description and technical characteristics	• relevant	• relevant
D3: Clinical effectiveness	• relevant	*** most important
D4: Safety aspects	• relevant	*** most important
D5: Costs and economic evaluation	• relevant	• relevant
D5.1 Societal point of view		• relevant
D5.2 Hospital point of view		*** most important
D6: Ethical aspects	• relevant	• relevant
D7: Organizational aspects	• relevant	*** most important
D8: Social aspects	• relevant	• relevant
D9: Legal aspects	• relevant	• relevant
D10: Political and strategic aspects		• relevant
D10.1 Political aspects		• relevant
D10.2 Strategic aspects		*** most important

**4** New methodological tools specific for HB-HTA

**AdHopHTA MINI-HTA template**

Q1: Summary  
Q2-7: Basic information  
Q8-12: Methodology & reporting  
Q13-23: Results within domains  
Q24-28: Discussion, conclusions and recommendations

**NEW**

**AdHopHTA quality checklist**  
for assessing the quality of HB-HTA reports

**26 QUESTIONS**

**5** HB-HTA units and national or regional HTA agencies: factors for successful collaboration

**THE BUILDING SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION**

- Good leadership
- Competent people
- Fluent processes across levels (national/regional and hospital)
- Relevant outputs

**LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE SHOULD ENSURE**

- regulations that require the use of HTA at all levels
- clear definition of mission, vision and values of collaboration
- mutually agreed strategy and managers' commitment to collaborate
- clearly defined roles and responsibilities across levels
- adequate funding that prevents competition between levels

**THE INDIVIDUALS WHO COLLABORATE SHOULD**

- have appropriate HTA knowledge, including methodological skills
- be trained in project leadership, communication and knowledge transfer
- have access to relevant databases, IT support and administrative assistance
- be open to informal contacts and express mutual respect across levels

**BETTER USE OF RESOURCES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES SUCH AS**

- sharing HTA reports, data and library resources
- training in HTA methodology
- joint identification of relevant HTA topics
- exchange of competence and networks
- providing strategic and political support across levels

**USEFUL OUTPUTS OF COLLABORATION SUCH AS**

- joint HTA reports that are directly useful for decision making in hospitals, i.e. to the point and usually brief tailored for hospitals and to include information on the organisation, costs and patient aspects - methodologically "good enough" - clear and easy to read
- database for easy sharing of HTA information
- improved communication between partners and reduced duplication of HTA work

PORTFOLIO OF REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN HB-HTA UNITS AND NATIONAL OR REGIONAL HTA ORGANISATIONS.

Arentz-Hansen et al. 2013, Pasternack et al.

**6** 15 guiding principles for good practices in organising and performing HB-HTA

Guiding Principles			
Dimension 1: THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS	1	HB-HTA REPORT: SCOPE, HOSPITAL CONTEXT AND INFORMATIONAL NEEDS	CORE
	2	HB-HTA REPORT: METHODS, TOOLS AND TRANSFERABILITY	CORE
	3	HB-HTA PROCESS: INDEPENDENT, UNBIASED AND TRANSPARENT WITH STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION	CORE
Dimension 2: LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS	4	MISSION, VISION AND VALUES AND GOVERNANCE	CORE
	5	LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION POLICY/STRATEGY	CORE
	6	SELECTION AND PRIORITISATION CRITERIA	CORE
	7	PROCESS OF DISINVESTMENT	CORE
	8	IMPROVING THROUGH INNOVATION	CORE
	9	KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCE SHARING	CORE
	10	COLLABORATION WITH HTA ORGANISATIONS	CORE
Dimension 3: RESOURCES	12	SKILLED HUMAN RESOURCES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT	CORE
	13	SUFFICIENT RESOURCES	CORE
	Dimension 4: IMPACT	14	MEASURING SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM IMPACT
15		MEASURING LONG-TERM IMPACT	

**9 Core Guiding Principles** prerequisites for setting-up and running HB-HTA units

**THE AdHopHTA TOOLKIT**

Guidance and tools facilitating the pragmatic application of the guiding principles for good practices in HB-HTA units

**SELF-ASSESSMENT**  
Not sure where to start? Use this tool to assess your capabilities for establishing or improving your HB-HTA activity.

**THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES**  
Access all the guiding principles and filter the core ones.

**TOOLS**  
Display the complete list of available tools to facilitate establishing and running your HB-HTA activity.

**A starting point for assessing your capabilities in HB-HTA**

**A list of:**  
• 15 Guiding Principles  
• 9 Core Guiding Principles

**A collection of:**  
• 34 tools  
• suggested solutions to potential problems while setting-up and running an HB-HTA unit