



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 30 2020

DEPARTMENT ORDER

No. 2020 - 0369

SUBJECT: Guidelines on the creation of the Health Technology Assessment Council for the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act

I. BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

As provided under Section 34 of Republic Act No. 11223 otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act," health technology assessment (HTA) process shall be institutionalized as a fair and transparent priority setting mechanism to guide the DOH and the Philhealth in the development of policies and programs, regulation, and the determination of a range of entitlements such as drugs, medicines, pharmaceutical products, and other devices, procedures and services. To operationalize the process, the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC), which is composed of health experts, shall be created within the DOH to undertake the following functions: (1) facilitate provision of financing and/or coverage recommendations on specific health technologies to be financed by DOH and Philhealth; (2) oversee, coordinate and perform the HTA processes within DOH and Philhealth; and (3) review and assess existing DOH and Philhealth benefit packages.

II. OBJECTIVES

This issuance aims to provide the process of selecting the members of the HTAC core and subcommittees as well as the terms of reference of the Council.

III. SCOPE

This Order shall apply to the DOH Team and Office in-charge of the Health Technology Assessment, as well as to the appointed members of HTAC.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

A. **Health Technology Assessment**– refers to the systematic evaluation of properties, effects, or impact of health-related technologies, devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures, and all other health-related systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of lives and health outcomes, utilizing a multidisciplinary

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process to evaluate the clinical, economic, organizational, social, and ethical issues of a health intervention or health technology.

- B. **Health Technology Assessment Council** – refers to the recommending body composed of health experts which shall be created within DOH and supported by the HTA Office in its governance, management and operations.
- C. **Conflict of Interest** – refers to a situation created when persons or entities in the public and/or private sectors involved in making recommendations and decisions have personal, financial or any other interest in the industry involved in the technology. This includes receiving or accepting any favor, offer or contribution, in monetary form or otherwise.

V. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. The HTAC shall be created within the DOH and supported by a Secretariat and a Technical Unit for Policy, Planning and Evaluation with evidence generation and validation capacity.
- B. Open nomination and deliberate recruitment of individuals with relevant expertise as required by the Universal Health Care Act shall be employed in the search for HTAC members.
- C. To ensure the competency of the HTAC members, a screening committee shall be created and the members of which represent the end-users of HTA.
- D. The HTAC shall be composed of a core committee and subcommittees. The core committee, which shall elect from among themselves its Chairperson, shall be composed of nine (9) voting members, namely: a public health epidemiologist; a health economist; an ethicist; a citizen's representative; a sociologist or anthropologist; a clinical trial or research methods expert; a clinical epidemiologist or evidence-based medicine expert; a medico-legal expert; and a public health expert. The subcommittees to be constituted shall include, among others: Drugs, Vaccines, Clinical Equipment and Devices, Medical and Surgical Procedure, Preventive and Promotive Health Services, Traditional Medicine and Other health technologies. Each subcommittee shall have a minimum of one (1) and maximum of three (3) non-voting members for each subcommittee
- E. HTAC's core committee and subcommittee members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health until such time that HTAC is transitioned to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).
- F. Process and methods guides shall be developed to serve as basis for the operations of HTAC as well as the implementation of HTA in the health system. These documents shall be subject to periodic review.
- G. The HTAC, supported by its Secretariat and a Technical Unit for Policy, Planning and Evaluation, shall transition into an independent entity separate from the DOH as an attached agency of the DOST within five (5) years after its establishment and operation.

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VI. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

A. Selection of the HTAC

1. A screening committee shall be convened within the DOH to select the members of the HTAC. It shall be composed of representatives from the (1) DOH Executive Committee members whose team are involved in the HTA; (2) Philippine Health Insurance Corporation; (3) Department of Science and Technology; and (4) Health Technology Assessment Unit.
2. The Screening Committee shall select the members of the HTAC based on the following criteria: educational and professional background, publications, absence of current significant conflict of interest, person of moral and intellectual integrity; and recognized specialist in the following fields of expertise:
 - a. Core Committee:
 - i. Public health epidemiology
 - ii. Health economics
 - iii. Ethics
 - iv. Sociology/ Anthropology
 - v. Clinical trial/ Research methods
 - vi. Clinical epidemiology or Evidence- based Medicine
 - vii. Medico-legal
 - viii. Public health
 - b. Subcommittees:
 - i. Drugs
 - ii. Vaccines
 - iii. Clinical equipment and devices
 - iv. Medical and surgical procedure
 - v. Preventive and promotive health services
 - vi. Traditional medicine
 - vii. Other health technologies (e.g., e-health)
3. The citizens' representative in the HTAC Core Committee shall be selected based on educational background and the absence of current significant conflicts of interest.
4. The list of recommended HTAC members shall be presented to the DOH Executive Committee for approval.

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B. Terms of reference of the HTAC

1. Roles and responsibilities

1.1 The *Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC)* created under Section 34.8 of the Universal Health Care Act, has the following explicit functions under the law:

- a. Facilitate provision of financing and coverage recommendations on health technologies to be financed by DOH and PhilHealth;
- b. Oversee and coordinate the HTA process within DOH and PhilHealth, and
- c. Review and assess existing health technologies financed by DOH and PhilHealth benefit packages.

1.2 The Core Committee shall develop and submit final recommendations to policy- and decision-makers, based on the evidence appraisal of the different subcommittees.

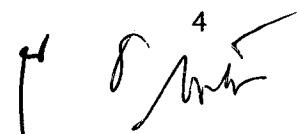
1.3 The Subcommittees shall support the Core Committee in achieving a timely, effective, efficient and responsive technology appraisal process by performing the initial prioritization of health technologies; reviewing HTA reports and submissions from the proponents, evidence review groups and other actors which submit evidence to the HTA Council for purposes of technology appraisal; evaluating the compliance of the Assessment Teams with the agreed methodological standards in conducting assessments; and reviewing and endorsing the initial appraisal reports by the Committee to the HTA Core Committee for final discussion and recommendation.

2. Terms of Office

The Core Committee and subcommittees shall have a term of three (3) years, except for the medico-legal expert, ethicist, and the sociologist or anthropologist, who shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Each member is only allowed to serve not more than three (3) consecutive terms.

3. Remuneration

The HTAC Core Committee Chair shall receive an honorarium of **SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 7,000.00)** per meeting, while the HTAC Vice Chair, Core Committee Members as well as the Subcommittees (chair and members) shall receive **FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 5,500.00)** per meeting following the provisions of the Department of

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Budget and Management (DBM) National Budget Circular No. 2007-510 dated 08 May 2007 with the subject, "Guidelines on the Grant of Honoraria to the Governing Boards of Collegial Bodies."

4. Technical Support

The HTAC may call upon technical resource persons from the Philhealth, Food and Drug Administration, patient groups and clinical medicine experts as regular resource persons, and representatives from the private sector and health care providers as by-invitation resource persons.

5. Confidentiality Agreement

All members shall not disclose any of the data presented, nor any views obtained in any proceedings, except as necessary to effectuate its terms. Minutes of the meeting circulated only among members shall be strictly confidential and shall not be used elsewhere outside the group. A member who breaches confidentiality may face administrative sanction, and appropriate legal actions.

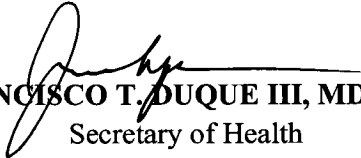
Each member shall also sign a non-disclosure agreement, which shall be updated annually.

C. Funding Source

Funding of the operations will be sourced from the Pharmaceutical Division and/or Health Regulation Team, whichever is applicable, subject to the usual accounting rules and regulations.

VII. Effectivity

This Order shall take effect immediately. Department Personnel Order No. 2019-5496 entitled, "Creation of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC)-Core and Subcommittees" is still enforced.


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Secretary of Health

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