An introduction to health technology, its assessment, and how the public provide input.

Background information for providing consumer views in the Health Technology Assessment process
What will this presentation cover?

1. What are health technologies?
2. What is the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process?
3. How and when are consumer views collected now?
4. Where can I learn more?
1. What are health technologies?
Every day, people use ‘health technologies’

Health technologies:

- Medicines
- Medical devices
- Vaccines
- Cell and gene therapies
- Screening and diagnostic tests
- Medical services
  … and more
How does the government decide which health technologies should be:

- Approved for sale in Australia?
- Funded by the government?
GOAL: to supply the health technologies that benefit patients and the health system.

Your views and experiences of medicines and medical services are important.

They help to inform the government funding decisions of these items.
What views and experiences?

- what daily life is like with/without the medicine/medical service
- what benefits and/or negative effects the medicine/medical service may have on health
- how easy/hard it may be to receive the medicine/medical service, for example:
  - In a big city hospital
  - In your local chemist, or
  - A nurse visiting your home
2. What is the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process?
The government wants the public to have safe, effective health technologies

The process the government uses to help decide what health technologies are sold in Australia and which of these it should fund is called

‘Health technology assessment’ (HTA)
Health technology assessment involves two main processes – assessment for:

- approval for sale, and
- for funding.

Different groups look after each process.

What can be sold? + What should be funded? = Safe and affordable access

Health Technology Assessment Committees
What can be sold?

Health technology products are assessed by the **Therapeutic Goods Administration** (TGA).

The TGA checks that the product is safe and meets appropriate standards.

(Also called market authorisation)
What should be funded?

The government receives advice about this from committees such as the Pharmaceutical Benefits and Medical Services Advisory Committees.

Funding is via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) or the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Medicare).

Health Technology Assessment Committees
The HTA pathway

1. Research data on new or existing medicine or medical service
2. Assessment for medicine or medical services to be sold in Australia
3. Application for Government funding of medicine or medical service
4. Committee consideration of application

**Recommended items are listed for SUBSIDY – e.g PBS or Medicare**

**Items NOT recommended may reapply**
3. How and when are consumer views collected now?
How are consumer views collected now?

Consumers are asked to answer a survey which collects their views and experiences on a particular health technology.

This information is then provided to the HTA committee advising the Government on subsidy (funding) the product.

Learn more about the consumer views survey
How are consumer views collected during HTA now?
4. Where can I learn more?

health.gov.au
Learn more about HTA

About HTA

Visit the Department of Health and Aged Care website for more information on HTA

About consumer views in HTA process

Visit the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA) Consultation Hub website

Contact the OHTA Consumer Evidence and Engagement Unit here
Thank you.

For your interest in the health technology assessment process