## Supplementary material

Supplementary Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria for agencies

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| **Inclusion criteria*** Production (i.e. commissioning or conducting) of HTA reports
* Own methods papers in English, French or German publicly available
* Full reports in English, French or German publicly available
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| **Exclusion criteria*** Agency ceased to exist
* Insufficient information available(agency’s website was not accessible; website was not in English, French or German; insufficient information available on website to identify contact person)
* No production of HTA
* Language (reports or methods papers were available only in a language other than English, French or German; only summaries [abstracts, bulletins etc.] were available in English, French or German)
* No own methods paper identified(no methods paper identified on website; information by agency that no such guidance has been developed; information by agency that another agency’s methods paper is followed)
* Reports not publicly available
* No reports on drug or non-drug therapeutic interventions available
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Supplementary Table 2: Data extracted from methods papers and HTA reports

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| **Methods papers** | **HTA reports**  |
| * Year of publication / number of pages / scope of guidance
* Explicit mentioning of requests to industry
* Format of request to industry
* Conditions for the acceptance or inclusion of data provided by industry
* Guidance concerning the reporting of requests to industry and the publication of data provided by industry
* Guidance concerning the search for unpublished data in publicly available sources: trial registries, regulatory authorities, and conference abstracts.
 | * For non-drug interventions: whether intervention involves the application of a medical device
* Explicit mentioning of requests to industry including details of companies contacted
* Response obtained from industry upon requests
* Previously not publicly accessible data obtained from industry upon requests
* Search for unpublished data in publicly available sources: trial registries, regulatory authorities and conference abstracts.
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Supplementary Table 3: Methods papers analyzeda

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| **Agency (Country)** | **Methods paper**  |
| AHRQ (U.S.) | * Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Methods Guide for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. Publication No. 10(11)-EHC063-EF. Rockville, MD: AHRQ. March 2011.b *Located at: http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/products/60/318/Methods-Guide\_Prepublication-Draft\_03-2011.pdf*
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| ASERNIP (Australia) | * Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures-Surgical. ASERNIP-S Systematic Review Process. November 2003.c *Located at: http://www.surgeons.org/media/17283/Review\_Group\_Info\_Manual2003.pdf*
 |
| CADTH (Canada) | * Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. Guidelines for Authors of CADTH Health Technology Assessment Reports. CADTH. June 2001 (revised May 2003).d *Located at: http://cadth.ca/en/products/methods-and-guidelines*
* Information Services, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health. Grey Matters: A Practical Search Tool for Evidence-Based Medicine. CADTH. April 2008 (updated January 2011). *Located at: http://www.cadth.ca/resources/grey-matters*e
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| CRD (U.K.)  | * Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. CRD’s Guidance for Undertaking Reviews in Health Care. York: CRD, University of York. 2009. *Located at: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/pdf/Systematic\_Reviews.pdf*
 |
| DACEHTA (Denmark) | * Kristensen FB & Sigmund H (ed.). Health Technology Assessment Handbook. Copenhagen: Danish Centre for Health Technology Assessment, National Board of Health. 2007. *Located at: http://www.sst.dk/~/media/Planlaegning%20og%20kvalitet/MTV%20metode/HTA\_Handbook\_net\_final.ashx*
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| DERP (U.S.) | * Drug Effectiveness Review Project. Systematic Review Methods and Procedures. Portland, OR: Oregon Health & Science University. Revised November 2010. *Located at: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/evidence-based-policy-center/derp/documents/upload/DERP\_METHODS\_WEB\_2010\_Final-3.pdf*
* The Center for Evidence-based Policy, Oregon Health & Science University. The Drug Effectiveness Review Project. Evidence Submission Protocol: A Format for Submission of Clinical Evidence for Systematic Evidence-Based Reviews of Drug Classes. Version 2.5. July 2010. *Located at: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/evidence-based-policy-center/derp/pharmaceutical-manufacturers/upload/Dossier-Protocol-and-Form-version-2-5-July\_10-doc.doc*
 |
| DIMDI(Germany) | * Deutsches Institut für Medizinische Dokumentation und Information. Handbuch für Autoren zur Erstellung von HTA-Berichten. Version: 02\_08. Köln: DIMDI. 2008. *Located at: http://www.dimdi.de/static/de/hta/dahta/prozess/handbuch.pdf*
 |
| G-BA(Germany) | * Verfahrensordnung des Gemeinsamen Bundesausschusses in der Fassung vom 18. Dezember 2008, veröffentlicht im Bundesanzeiger 2009, S. 2050 (Beilage), in Kraft getreten am 1. April 2009, geändert am 20. Januar 2011, veröffentlicht im Bundesanzeiger 2011, S. 1342, in Kraft getreten am 9. April 2011. *Located at: http://www.g-ba.de/downloads/62-492-526/VerfO\_2011-01-20.pdf*
 |
| GÖG(Austria) | * Gesundheit Österreich GmbH. Methodenhandbuch für Health Technology Assessment, Version 1.2010. Wien: Bundesinstitut für Qualität im Gesundheitswesen. 2011.*Located at: http://www.goeg.at/cxdata/media/download/MHB\_Version1\_2010.pdf; Appendix B at http://www.goeg.at/cxdata/media/download/HTA\_MHB\_Anhang\_B\_Version1.2010.pdf*
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| HAS (France) | * Agence Nationale d’Accréditation et d’Évaluation en Santé (ANAES). Guide d’ Analyse de la Litterature et Gradation des Recommandations. January 2000.f *Located at: http://www.has-sante.fr/portail/upload/docs/application/pdf/analiterat.pdf*
 |
| HVB (Austria) | * Hauptverband der Österreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger. Handbuch für EBM-Berichte. Wien: HVB. 2008. *Located at: http://www.hauptverband.at/mediaDB/MMDB136920\_EBM\_%20Manual.pdf*
 |
| IQWiG (Germany) | * Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen. Allgemeine Methoden. Entwurf für Version 4.0 vom 09.03.2011. Köln: IQWiG. 2011. *Located at: https://www.iqwig.de/download/IQWiG\_Entwurf\_Methoden\_Version\_4-0.pdf*
* Institut für Qualität und Wirtschaftlichkeit im Gesundheitswesen. Vereinbarung über die vertrauliche Behandlung von Unterlagen. 19.08.2005. *Located at: https://www.iqwig.de/download/IQWiG-VFA-Mustervertrag.pdf*
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| KCE(Belgium) | * Cleemput I, Van Den Bruel A, Kohn L, Vlayen J, Vinck I, Thiry N, et al. Search for Evidence & Critical Appraisal: Health Technology Assessment (HTA). Brussels: Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre (KCE); 2007. KCE Process notes (D2007/10.273/40).g *Located at: https://kce.fgov.be/sites/default/files/page\_documents/kce\_process\_notes\_hta.pdf*
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| LBI (Austria) | * Garthlehner G. (Internes) Manual: Abläufe und Methoden. Teil 2. Wien: Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Health Technology Assessment. 2007 (updated 2008). *Located at: http://eprints.hta.lbg.ac.at/713/3/HTA-Projektbericht\_06\_(2.Auflage).pdf*
* Wild C. (Externes) Manual: Selbstverständnis und Arbeitsweise. Teil 1. Wien: Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Health Technology Assessment. 2007. *Located at: http://eprints.hta.lbg.ac.at/714/1/HTA-Projektbericht\_003.pdf*
 |
| MSAC (Australia) | * Medical Services Advisory Committee. Funding for New Medical Technologies and procedures: application and assessment guidelines. Commonwealth of Australia. 2005.h *Located at: http://www.msac.gov.au/internet/msac/publishing.nsf/Content/D81BE529B98B3DB6CA2575AD0082FD1B/$File/Funding%20for%20new%20medical%20technologies%20&%20procedures\_application%20&%20assessment%20guidelines%20-%20Sept%202005.pdf*
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| NICE (U.K.) | * National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal. London: NICE. 2008. *Located at: http://www.nice.org.uk/media/B52/A7/TAMethodsGuideUpdatedJune2008.pdf*
* National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Guide to the Multiple Technology Appraisal Process. London: NICE. 2009. *Located at: http://www.nice.org.uk/media/42D/8C/MTAGuideLRFINAL.pdf*
* National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Agreement between the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) on Guidelines for the Release of Company Data into the Public Domain During a Health Technology Appraisal. NICE. 2004. *Located at: http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/agreement\_of\_the\_british\_pharmaceutical\_industry.jspi*
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| PHARMAC(New Zealand) | * Pharmaceutical Management Agency. Guidelines for Funding Applications to PHARMAC. 2010.*Located at: http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2010/02/11/Guidelines%20for%20Suppliers%20Submissions.pdf*
 |
| TLV (Sweden) | * **Tandvårds- och läkemedelsförmånsverket.** Working Guidelines for the Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Review. TLV. 2008.j *Located at: http://www.tlv.se/Upload/Genomgangen/guidelines-pharmaceutical-reimbursement.pdf*
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| a: Further methods papers not identified or including specific guidance for further types of HTA reports not considered in our analyses (e.g. for Single Technology Appraisals at NICE) may be in use at these agencies. b: This document was identified on AHRQ’s website a few weeks after the initial search of February 2011. The document is currently available at http://tectutorials.com/Resources/Methods-Guide\_Prepublication-Draft\_03-2011.pdf. c: At the time of our request, a more recent version as well as further, more detailed methods papers were used internally (source: response from agency).d: At the time of our request, CADTH was working on updated guidelines. These guidelines were the most current ones for HTA, but do not necessarily reflect current practice (source: response from agency).e: The document is currently available at http://www.openmedicine.ca/images/6/e10/OpenMed-06-e10-s002.pdf.f: ANAES was the predecessor of HAS. However, as this document is presented on HAS’s website and as we could not identify a more recent document, we included it in our analysis. g:At the time of our request, the process notes for HTA were being updated (source: response from agency).h: Note that at the time of our request, HTA processes at MSAC were undergoing major revisions (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/hta/publishing.nsf/Content/review-1>) and new methodological guidelines were in the process of being drafted (source: response from agency).i: The document is currently available at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100407010852/http://nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/NICE\_submission\_to\_HSC\_AppA.pdf j: At the time of our request, the guidelines no longer reflected the way TLV reviews the already reimbursed pharmaceuticals. A new guideline was under preparation for this process, but not yet public (source: response from agency). |

Supplementary Table 4: Methods papers on searches in publicly available sources

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|  | **Routine or optional element of the literature search** | **Not explicitly mentioned as an element of the literature search** |
| **Trial registries** | AHRQ, CADTH, CRD, DERP, IQWiG, GÖG, KCE, LBI, PHARMAC  | ASERNIP, DACEHTA, DIMDI, G-BA, HASa, HVB, MSAC, NICEb, TLV |
| **Regulatory authority websites** | AHRQ, CADTH, DERP, G-BAc, GÖG, IQWiG, KCE, LBI, MSAC, PHARMAC, TLV  | ASERNIP, CRD, DACEHTA, DIMDI, HAS, HVB, NICEb |
| **Conference abstracts** | AHRQ, CADTH, CRD, DACEHTA, HAS, IQWiG, KCE, LBI | ASERNIP, DERP, DIMDI, G-BA, GÖG, HVB, MSAC, NICEb, PHARMAC, TLV |
| The information reflects the content of the methods papers that were available to us at the point of our search.a: The methods paper included in our analysis was published before comprehensive public trial registries such as Clinicaltrials.gov had been established.b: NICE does not carry out the HTA reports itself but commissions them to academic centers; the NICE methods papers therefore do not give detailed advice on how to carry out the literature search.c: For assessment of drugs only |