Supplementary Material 2- Survey Questionnaire

Dear respondent,

This questionnaire will provide us with an understanding of your agency’s experiences of handling ethical considerations in health technology assessment (HTA). Please ensure that your reply reflects the views of your organization.

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| 1. **Identification**
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| A1. HTA agency: |
| A2. Country: |
| A3. Position of the respondent in the organization: |
| A4. Which of the following best describes your organization? (please select one)* A governmental department
* A governmental/Quasi-governmental agency
* A research/academic institution
* Other (please specify): ……………………………
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| 1. **HTA procedures**
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| B1. What kinds of health technologies does your organization mainly assess? (Please select all that apply.)* Pharmaceuticals
* Diagnostic medical devices
* Medical procedures
* Public health interventions
* Health system interventions
* Other (please specify): ……………………………
 |
| B2. What types of reports/appraisals does your organization produce? (Please select all that apply.)* Health technology Assessment report
* Rapid assessment/quick response service
* Technical queries
* Systematic reviews
* Horizon scanning
* Other (please specify): ……………………………
 |
| B3. Approximately how many of each kind of report/appraisal does your agency perform every year? 🗆🗆🗆🗆 Health technology Assessment report🗆🗆🗆🗆 Rapid assessment/quick response service🗆🗆🗆🗆 Technical queries🗆🗆🗆🗆 Systematic reviews🗆🗆🗆🗆 Horizon scanning🗆🗆🗆🗆 Other (please specify): ……………………………  |
| B4. What proportion of the reports/appraisals produced by your organization include assessment of: 🗆🗆🗆% Clinical efficacy/effectiveness 🗆🗆🗆% Safety🗆🗆🗆% Economic aspects🗆🗆🗆% Social aspects🗆🗆🗆% Ethical aspects (all ethical considerations)🗆🗆🗆% Ethical aspects (equity only)🗆🗆🗆% Legal aspects 🗆🗆🗆% Organizational aspects🗆🗆🗆% Other (please specify): …………………………… |
| 1. **Consideration of ethical issues in HTA**
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| C1. What level of priority does your organization currently assign to the consideration of ethical issues in HTA?* Very high
* High
* Somewhat
* Low
* No priority
 |
| C2. In your organization, who is typically responsible for incorporating ethical considerations in HTA reports * Ethicists
* Non-ethicists (please specify): ……………………………
* Multi-disciplinary team of researchers including an ethicist
* Multi-disciplinary team of researchers NOT including an ethicist
* Not applicable
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| C3. Does your organization have written instructions on how to address ethical issues in HTA reports?* Yes ⏵ please answer C4
* No, in preparation ⏵
* No ⏵please answer C5
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| C4. If you replied “Yes” to question C3, please provide a link to the document or give a reference for the document in the space below. .…………………………………………………………………………………………………………* Not willing to provide the document
* Not applicable
 |
| C5. If you replied “No” to question C3, please specify what types of methodological references would be considered by your organization when ethical issues are needed to be addressed?* Published guidelines/frameworks
* Expert advice
* Both
* None
 |
| C6. Please provide, in the space below, references to the most frequently used guidance documents for addressing ethical issues in your organization:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..* Not willing to provide references
* Not applicable
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| C7. How would you rate usefulness of the existing guidance documents?* Very useful
* High
* Somewhat
* Low
* Not useful
* Not aware of any guidelines or frameworks
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| C8. When you recognize a need for ethical expert advice, where do you obtain ethics expertise?* In-house ethicists
* Permanent external ethics expertise
* Ad-hoc hiring of ethics consultants (per project)
* Other (please specify): ……………………………
* Not applicable
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| 1. **Factors influencing the incorporation of ethical issues in HTA**
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| D1. What are the main barriers to incorporating ethical issues in HTA? (please select the most prominent barriers in your organization)* Organizational policies and rules
* Limited organizational resources (human, financial, etc.)
* Negative attitudes of researchers involved in HTA
* Limited expertise of researchers involved in HTA
* Project timelines
* Lack/complexity of existing guidance documents
* Scarcity of ethical evidence
* Other (please specify): ……………………………
* No opinion
 |
| D2. What would encourage or assist HTA-producers in incorporating ethical issues into HTA?* Enhancement of existing guidelines and frameworks
* Engagement of stakeholders in HTA process
* Holding training sessions and workshops for HTA-producers
* Engagement of ethicists in HTA procedures
* Demand by policy-makers
* Public pressure
* Other (please specify): ……………………………
* No opinion
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**Please use the space provided below to comment on any related issue not covered in this questionnaire:**

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Thank you for your contribution.