Supplementary Material 2. The comparison between current (from 2012) and previous (2007-2012) appraisal council at AOTMiT: Transparency Council and Consultative Council

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| Area | **Current**  **Transparency Council** | **Previous**  **Consultative Council** |
| Brief description | Advisory appraisal committees affiliated with the President of AOTMiT. | |
| Timespan | 2012 – today | 2007 – 2012 |
| Main tasks | * Classifying or not a given healthcare service as guaranteed or financed from public funds together with a proposal regarding the mechanism and level of reimbursement. * Removing a given healthcare service from the basket of guaranteed services * Issuing opinions on health programs. * Carrying out other tasks at the request of the President of the Agency. * Issuing opinions regarding group limits and withdrawal of reimbursement decision;   Issuing opinions regarding the reimbursement in off-label use. | * Classifying or not a given healthcare service as guaranteed or financed from public funds together with a proposal regarding the mechanism and level of reimbursement. * Removing a given healthcare service from the basket of guaranteed services * Issuing opinions on health programs. * Carrying out other tasks at the request of the President of the Agency. |
| Composition (members) | 20 members in total:   * 10 recognized experts in the field of medical sciences or alike alternatively in the field of health care services evaluation, including ethics (phD at minimum); * 4 representatives of the Minister of Health; * 2 representatives of the National Health Fund;2 representatives of the Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products;2 representatives of the Commissioner for Patients' Rights. | 12 members in total:   * 7 representatives of the Minister of Health; * 1 representative appointed by the rectors of medical schools; * 1 representative designated by the Supreme Medical Council; * 1 representative appointed by the Supreme Council of Pharmaceutical; * 1 representative designated by the Supreme Council of Nurses and Midwives; * 1 representative designated by the National Health Fund. |
| Legal basis | Reimbursement Law and also Law on health care services financed out of public funds | Law on health care services financed out of public funds |

The Transparency Council (TC) is an advisory appraisal committee affiliated with the President of the Polish HTA Agency. With the entrance of the Reimbursement Law in 2012, the TC replaced the Consultative Council. The strictly defined by law TC composition is supposed to reflect the balance of different stakeholders in Polish health care system.

The chairman and two vice-chairmen manage the Council’s work and are elected by members during the first TC meeting. Ten members are appointed by sortition prior to every Council meeting in such a manner that each authority has its representative. The ten member teams adopt resolutions in the form of the Council’s positions. The resolutions require a simple majority to pass in the presence of at least 2/3 of its members. The chairman decides in case of a tie vote.

The position of the TC with regards to medicinal products includes:

* the Council’s opinion on whether the drug should be financed from public funds;
* conditions under which a drug may be listed ie. proposed reimbursed indications and reference groups limits;
* if relevant, comments on drug program proposal;
* comments on risk sharing mechanisms if applicable.

As in the case of the TC today, the outcome of the Consultative Council’s work regarding medicinal products was its Position. The latter classified or not a given healthcare service (drug) as guaranteed or financed from public funds together with a proposal regarding the mechanism and level of reimbursement. An important difference between CC and TC positions is that previously CC positions were considered as final AOTM recommendations while currently this role plays recommendation issued by AOTMiT President who takes into account TC position.

With the entrance of the Reimbursement Law, the TC received additional task such as issuing opinions regarding group limits, the withdrawal of reimbursement decisions and issuing opinions regarding the reimbursement in off-label use.