**Title: How does HTA address current social expectations?**

**Cover page:**

Your participation to this study entitled:

“How does HTA address current social expectations? An overview of the HTA practitioner’s perspective” is anonymous so that only your country may be identified for statistical analyses, not your name and/or that of your Organization/Agency/Institution. This study is directed by Prof. Johane Patenaude (Université de Sherbrooke, QC, Canada) and funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR grant #142187).

This study proceeds with a choice of answers and takes 20-30 minutes to complete. It comprises of 6 sections: an identification section, followed by 5 question groups. As you will be doing the study you can use the buttons on the upper right corner, either to browse the question groups using the Question Index button, to wait and resume your participation later using the Resume later button (you will be asked to generate a password for your own re-access), or to exit this survey at any time (if you wish) without submitting your answers using the Exit and clear button.

Be aware that when you submit your answers at the end of this questionnaire, by clicking on the SUBMIT button, you have given us your informed consent. The 'Comité d’éthique de la recherche du CIUSSS de l’Estrie – CHUS’ approved this study and is responsible for monitoring the study.

If you want to reach a member of the Research Ethics Board, please contact the Service de soutien à l’éthique de la recherche du CIUSSS de l’Estrie - CHUS at the following number: 1-819-346-1110, x. 12856. For any question concerning your rights as a research participant taking part in this study, or if you have comments, or wish to file a complaint, you may communicate with the ‘Bureau des plaintes et à la qualité des services du CIUSSS de l’Estrie-CHUS’ at the following number: 1-866-917-7903.

As professionals you know that the validity of our results rests entirely in your precious participation. We thank you for taking the time to answer this study.

There are 22 questions in this survey.

**Questionnaire:**

**Identification Section:**

This section is for the collection of parameters about your Organization/Agency/Institution.

**Q1:** Which of the following describes your Organization/Agency/Institution best? (Please select one)

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• A governmental department

• A governmental/quasi-governmental agency

• A research/academic institution

• Private

• Other (please specify):

**Q2:** What is the population encompassed by your Organization/Agency/Institution?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• International

• National

• Provincial

• Regional

• Local

• Hospital-based

• Other (please specify):

**Q3:** In which country is the professional HTA activity of your Organization/Agency/Institution located?

Please write your answer here:

**Section 1: The purpose of HTA nowadays**

According to Schokkaert: "The purpose of health technology assessment (HTA) is to offer useful input into this process [for decision makers] so as to increase the quality of the deliberations and of the resulting decisions". (Schokkaert, 2015, IJTAHC, v. 31:3 p. 111)

In order to offer useful input for decision makers, how do you agree on the importance for HTA full reports to consider the following needs?

**Q4:** The need for decision-makers to base their decisions on solid scientific evidence.

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q5:** The need for decision-makers to base their decisions on an analysis of contextual information like organizational, ethical and social issues.

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q6:** The need for patients to have access to what justified the decision-makers’ choices impacting on the patient’s medical condition and quality of life.

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q7:** The need for citizens to have access to what justified the decision-makers’ choices impacting on the healthcare system.

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Section 2: Making explicit the value-ladenness of the process of HTA**

According to Oortwijn : "Ethics related to the choices made with regard to hypotheses, evaluation design, outcome measures, and so on, when assessing a technology. These certainly are value-laden. For hypotheses and outcome measures are based on a specific notion about the merit of a technology, or what a technology should do to be valuable" (Oortwijn et al. 2004 Poiesis & Praxis v.2 p.100).

Assuming the following as a definition for value judgement: “a subjective judgement that estimates, with certain criteria, the worth, goodness, importance, etc. of consequences of an action and guides decision-making”, please specify at what degree of explicitness should value judgements be reported in the following sections of a full HTA report.

**Q8:** The reporting of Scoping in the introductory section, where decisions are made on: the overall objectives, the impacts examined, the included or excluded analyses in the production, consultation, etc.?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Highly explicit

• Moderately explicit

• Weakly explicit

• Never explicit

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q9:** The reporting of the Efficacy analysis, where decisions are made on: comparators, outcome measures, selection of studies to be included, the relative weighting of evidence, etc.?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Highly explicit

• Moderately explicit

• Weakly explicit

• Never explicit

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q10:** The reporting of the Safety analysis, where decisions are made on: outcome measures for safety, selection of included/excluded studies, evidence weighting, etc.?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Highly explicit

• Moderately explicit

• Weakly explicit

• Never explicit

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Section 2 (continued):**

**Q11:** The reporting of the Cost Effectiveness analysis, where decisions are made on: outcome measures of cost and effectiveness (e.g. Cost/QALY), choice of comparators, selection of included/excluded data, conclusions’ validity, etc.? Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Highly explicit

• Moderately explicit

• Weakly explicit

• Never explicit

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q12:** The reporting of the Ethical analysis, where decisions are made on: ethical approach selection, selection of included/excluded data, conclusions’ validity, etc.?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Highly explicit

• Moderately explicit

• Weakly explicit

• Never explicit

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q13:** The reporting of the Recommendations?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Highly explicit

• Moderately explicit

• Weakly explicit

• Never explicit

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Section 3: Ethical Analysis**

Considering that three types of ethical analysis were identified in HTA reports and in the HTA literature, namely:

*Descriptive ethics:* whereby the aim is to raise ethical issues without analyzing them and to expose the different issues that the decision maker has to be aware of and cope with.

*Evaluative ethics:* whereby the aim is to analyze and evaluate the issues, prioritizing underlying values, identifying conflicting value judgments and their respective justification.

*Prescriptive ethics:* whereby the aim is to draw a line between what is acceptable or unacceptable technologies by means of a moral reasoning.

**Q14:** Do you think the reported ethical analysis should:

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Only be descriptive

• Be descriptive and evaluative

• Be descriptive, evaluative and prescriptive

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q15:** Who should be responsible for the type of ethical analysis you have identified in the previous question?

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Typical HTA professionals

• A team of HTA professionals including an ethicist

• An expert in ethics

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q16:** Do you agree with the following statement?

“Ethical analysis is a specific field of inquiry so its results should be presented in a separate section like effectiveness, safety and cost”.

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Section 4: Aims of the HTA reports**

Do you agree with the following statements proposing these aims for HTA?

**Q17:** “HTA process and reports should concentrate on one phase: assessment, which includes epidemiological studies, the collection of all available scientific information (e.g., literature review, cost-effectiveness analyses) and then a subsequent analysis and final synthesis.”

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q18:** “HTA process and reports should be described as a combination of two phases: 1) assessment, which includes epidemiological studies, the collection of all available scientific information (e.g., literature review, cost-effectiveness analyses) and then a subsequent analysis and synthesis; and 2) appraisal, in which contextualized data are gathered and recommendations made.”

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q19:** “HTA process and reports should be as a combination of three phases: 1) assessment, which include epidemiological studies - the collection of all available scientific information (e.g., literature review, cost-effectiveness analyses) - and a subsequent analysis and synthesis; 2) contextual data, including ethical analyses and qualitative studies on patients and citizens perspective, organizational changes etc. and a subsequent analysis and synthesis; and 3) recommendations with their justifications grounded in the first two phases.”

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Strongly agree

• Agree

• Neither agree or disagree

• Disagree

• Strongly disagree

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Section 5: Participatory approaches in the production of recommendations**

The conclusions of the different analyses (efficacy, safety, cost-effectiveness and ethical) will provide a given value to the different findings, which could necessitate trade-offs between their relative values in order to reach specific recommendations. To which extent do you think the following participatory approaches could be useful for this matter?

**Q20:** Patients involvement

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Very useful

• Useful

• Moderately useful

• Not very useful

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q21:** Public-Citizens involvement

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Very useful

• Useful

• Moderately useful

• Not very useful

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**Q22:** Stakeholders involvement

Please choose only one of the following answers:

• Very useful

• Useful

• Moderately useful

• Not very useful

• No answer

Make a comment on your choice here:

**General comment:**

We would appreciate any further comments:

Thank you for your precious collaboration in this study.

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.