

Health Technology Assessment Philippines

Annual Report 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE HTAC CHAIR

2021 marked the second year of existence of the Health Technology Council. The Council continued its assessments of various COVID-19 related technologies, such as vaccines, drugs and diagnostics issued Emergency Use Licenses (EULs), for possible procurement of the Department of Health or inclusion in the PhilHealth benefit package.

The challenges that the HTAC faced this year were not only methodological in nature but also structural and operational, as the different bodies created by the pandemic response, including HTAC, began to work on their separate mandates. With the disparate lenses with which the data needed to be scrutinized, the different expert groups were expected to provide recommendations that would reflect a multiplicity of views intended to make decision-making more robust.

However, in the course of this loose and semi-structured arrangement, where the entities were expected to work within the parameters of this “alliance,” some cracks started to show.

Processes and methods were almost becoming routine until HTAC found itself participating in meetings involving Expert Panels where it was expected to make presentations or to share opinions that had not undergone the usual deliberations of the HTAC membership. There were awkward moments when HTAC decisions were deemed to not be in consonance with those of the other experts and, therefore, had to be defended by the HTAC representative during the meetings!

The frequent issue raised was “why HTAC includes the efficacy/effectiveness and safety of the technology among its assessment criteria when these are already assessed by FDA and DPCB through the Living CPG.” Related comments were: “should not HTAC confine its assessment to economic assessments, e.g., cost-effectiveness, cost-utility determinations?” and “why cannot HTAC be “more creative” in its assessments instead of duplicating what other groups are already doing?” The conclusion that HTAC has come to realize is that, indeed, the HTA process is not yet well understood nor appreciated even in the DOH itself.

For many of the members of HTAC who are new to the DOH governance system and still unfamiliar with its organizational structure and function, we can only wonder how HTAC was conceptualized without having considered the above-mentioned overlaps in activities. We also wonder how the Administrative Order 2020-0041, which institutionalized the HTA Methods and Processes, was approved after having undergone several months of consultations and presentations among the different DOH offices without generating the questions related to the above issues.

HTAC needs to make the following points clear:

1. The HTAC is mandated by law to include “scientific defensibility” in its deliberation and the conduct of HTA includes, by law, the need to make its independent assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the technology.
2. Whenever data are available and where the position of related entities are shared and known, HTAC considers their recommendations; however, since HTAC assessments necessarily need to be independent and consider many other

assessment criteria, some of its views might not be in conformance with assessments of others. Any dissenting views will only contribute to better decision-making and will avoid “groupthink.” Deliberations of concordance should occur at the level of decision-making and there must be no occasion where one expert group is pitted against another or against others.

3. It must be reiterated that HTAC is NOT against bootstrapping, nor discounting, the findings and assessments made by relevant agencies, offices of DOH, or other expert groups. What HTAC is about is making a principled stand for what it interprets as the HTAC’s legal mandate based on the UHC Law that created it. HTAC instead takes a pragmatic and critical stance in determining whether or not it agrees with assessments and/or recommendations. No less is expected of any health technology assessment group.

For this coming year, HTAC shall review its Process and Methods Guides so that it can be even more rigorous yet responsive in its assessments. For example, we shall explore the possibility of incorporating some of the GetReal tools and resources (i.e., for considering real-world evidence or RWE in the data analysis) so we evaluate RWE in the context of the totality of the evidence.

A major challenge faced by HTAC in 2021 was the rapid turnover of HTAU staff who were on job order work arrangements. Orientations and training workshops had to be done in several cycles in order to ensure quality work within the timetable. This could be a major factor that explains the low percentage (63%) compared to the accomplishment target indicator of 80% for timely and high-quality evidence-based recommendations. How this deficiency in the workforce can be addressed in this coming year is a challenge to be met in the process of transitioning HTAC from DOH to DOST.

Another major challenge is the lack of quality local data. Data are either absent, insufficient, immature or of low quality. Most of the challenges in HTA are rooted in data insufficiencies. Increasingly, new trial designs with single arms are used for small populations or interim data are all that are available. The need to plan ahead for procurement and other purposes has resulted in the availability of decreased numbers and a lower quality of data available at the time of HTA deliberations, leading to greater uncertainties and complicating financing decision-making.

Notwithstanding these challenges, HTA Philippines participated and contributed to the development of DOH-wide policies and programs including the Guidance on COVID-19 vaccines, COVID-related surveys (e.g., on boosters, on vaccination of adolescents), development of PhilHealth Benefit Packages, and others. Moreover, members and staff of HTA Philippines were invited as speakers, poster presenters, and resource persons in national and international conferences – this is indicative of growing recognition of HTA Philippines.

We are happy to note too that 51 out of 51 HTAC recommendations for the year 2021 were approved by the Secretary of Health.

There will be two important developments this coming year. First is the possible impact of the May 2022 national elections and the second is the transitioning of the Council from DOH to DOST. How HTA Philippines will be positioned shall be a measure of how important health technology assessment truly is in the Philippine Health System.

Personally, it has been a very interesting and gratifying year. I cannot adequately put into words the many unexpected insights that I learned about public health governance and the pleasure of working with very intelligent and committed members and staff in the Council. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation for the contributions, comments, and feedback of Dr. Annabelle Borromeo, Dr. Cecile Maramba-Lazarte, Prof. Agnette Peralta, Dr. Medy Sanial and Dr. Peng Tuazon in crafting this message.

Thank you, all, for being there.

Marita V. Tolentino-Reyes, MD

Chair, Health Technology Assessment Council
Ethics Practitioner, HTAC Core Committee

MESSAGE FROM THE DOH UNDERSECRETARY - HEALTH REGULATION TEAM

As we close another year, I extend my heartfelt recognition to the efforts of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and congratulate it for its triumphs amidst the trials of the pandemic. Together with its dedicated committees and subcommittees, the goals of Republic Act 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act were strengthened despite the heavy demands of COVID-19. We have seen the adaptability of the HTA in addressing rising COVID-19 concerns thereby proving its unwavering commitment in ensuring quality health care for all our fellow Filipinos. Truly, HTA played a pivotal role in the fight of the Department of Health and the country against the pandemic.

The achievements of the HTA for 2021 are evident marks of contribution in our development of evidence-based policies to help our country recover. From their active guidance on COVID-19 testing, drugs and vaccines, we further solidify our health care system making it more functional and responsive to our current needs. May this publication be a reminder of the hard work of HTA and the remarkable help of all its partner agencies both in the public and private sector as well as its stakeholders.

As we enter 2022, allow this to be the perfect time to welcome opportunities, accept challenges and ignite our passion for public service. May HTA remain a steadfast companion of the Department of Health in its journey of building a resilient health sector prepared to face any health crisis.

Let us look forward to the boundless possibilities of the coming year. Expect the never-ceasing support of the Department of Health to HTA in all of its endeavors. Together, we can and we will achieve a healthier and safer 2022!

ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
Undersecretary
Health Regulation Team

MESSAGE FROM THE DOST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNDERSECRETARY

Congratulations to the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Unit of the Department of Health (DOH) for a year of rapid development, organization, and service to the Filipino people. Our current pandemic situation has brought to fore the importance of HTA in the country. While the HTA Unit of DOH does not have the complete human resource complement and corresponding resources, it has performed well and responded to the needs of the government, industry and the general public.

In this annual report we will see the results of HTA's operation, and to a certain extent also see the needed resources that our government need to invest in HTA so that it will fulfill its role, as written in the Universal Health Care Bill, and more importantly, contribute to the health and wellness of Filipinos. The leadership of DOH and HTA has nurtured HTA and we at the Department of Science and Technology will continue to support the early years of the HTA through research and development, and human resource development.

The technology outputs of DOST-funded Health Research and Development projects will soon be subjected to HTA and it is our hope that the HTA process will efficiently and effectively assess these technologies so that they will find their intended place in the health ecosystem of the country.

We thank the contributors from the academe, government and private sector for a successful year of HTA and we know that we can count on you in ensuring that HTA grows into a strong organization in the next few years.

ROWENA CRISTINA L. GUEVARA, PhD

Undersecretary for Research and Development
Department of Science and Technology

MESSAGE FROM THE DOST-PCHRD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since its establishment, the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) has been a reliable partner of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) in forwarding evidence-informed health policies and strategies in pursuit of universal health care (UHC).

One of the testaments of this close partnership is the development of the Health Technology Assessment Research Network which is set to be jointly formed by the DOST-PCHRD and the Department of Health (DOH). With the task to ensure that the methods and the conduct of assessment by the HTA are based on scientific evidence, this initiative supports our shared goal of a sustainable, accessible, and responsive UHC for Filipinos.

Aside from this, our information dissemination initiatives on the mandate of the HTAC helped health technology generators, government leaders, health researchers, health professionals, and even patients, understand the importance of research evidence in formulating health policies and making decisions on the use of certain health products and technologies. Through these activities, we gain allies in forwarding evidence-informed public healthcare in the country.

Moving forward, the DOST-PCHRD looks forward to strengthened partnerships and collaborations with the HTAC to make more Filipino lives better.

Congratulations to the HTAC for a productive 2021!

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang HTAC!

JAIME C. MONTOKA, MD, MSc, PhD, CESO II

Executive Director, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
Department of Science and Technology

WHO WE ARE

INTRODUCING HTA PHILIPPINES

The Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, otherwise known as Republic Act 11223, institutionalized the health technology assessment (HTA) as a priority setting mechanism for program and policy development, regulation, and entitlement arbitration in the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). As part of this mandate, DOH released Administrative Order No. 2020-0041 or “*The New Implementing Guidelines on Health Technology Assessment to Guide Funding Allocation and Coverage Decisions in support of Universal Health Care*” in September 2020. This Order: (1) sets the HTA implementation framework in the Philippines through the release of the first edition of the Philippine HTA Process and Methods Guides; (2) and delineates the roles, responsibilities, and requirements for Offices and stakeholders involved in HTA.

The [Health Technology Assessment Council \(HTAC\)](#) was created in October 2019 under this Act. The HTAC functions as an independent multidisciplinary expert advisory body that guides the DOH and PhilHealth coverage and public funding for health interventions. It is composed of nine (9) voting Core Committee members and seven (7) Subcommittees with three (3) members each.

THE HTAC CORE COMMITTEE



MARITA V. TOLENTINO-REYES, MD
Health Ethicist
Chair, HTAC Core Committee



ANNABELLE R. BORROMEO, PHD, MHA, RN, CNS
Citizen's Representative
Vice Chair, Core Committee



MA. CARMEN CORNELIA-TOLABING, DRPH
Public Health Epidemiologist
Core Committee



CECILIA C. MARAMBA-LAZARTE, MD, MSCID, MSCCT
Clinical Trial/Research Methods Expert
Core Committee



MARIA CARINNES P. ALEJANDRIA, PHD
Sociologist/Anthropologist
Core Committee



MARTHA BUGNOSEN-CAYAD-AN, MD, MPH, CESO III
Public Health Expert
Core Committee



BU C. CASTRO, M.D. LL.B. FPSP
Medico-Legal Expert
Core Committee



JACINTO BLAS V. MANTARING III, MD, MSC
Clinical Epidemiologist/Evidence-based Medicine Expert
Core Committee



ALELI D. KRAFT, PHD
Health Economist
Core Committee

The HTAC Core Committee comprises voting members from different fields of expertise. The Committee members formulate recommendations on the priority topics for policy- and decision-makers based on evidence appraisals on priority topics as evaluated by the different subcommittees.

THE HTAC SUBCOMMITTEES



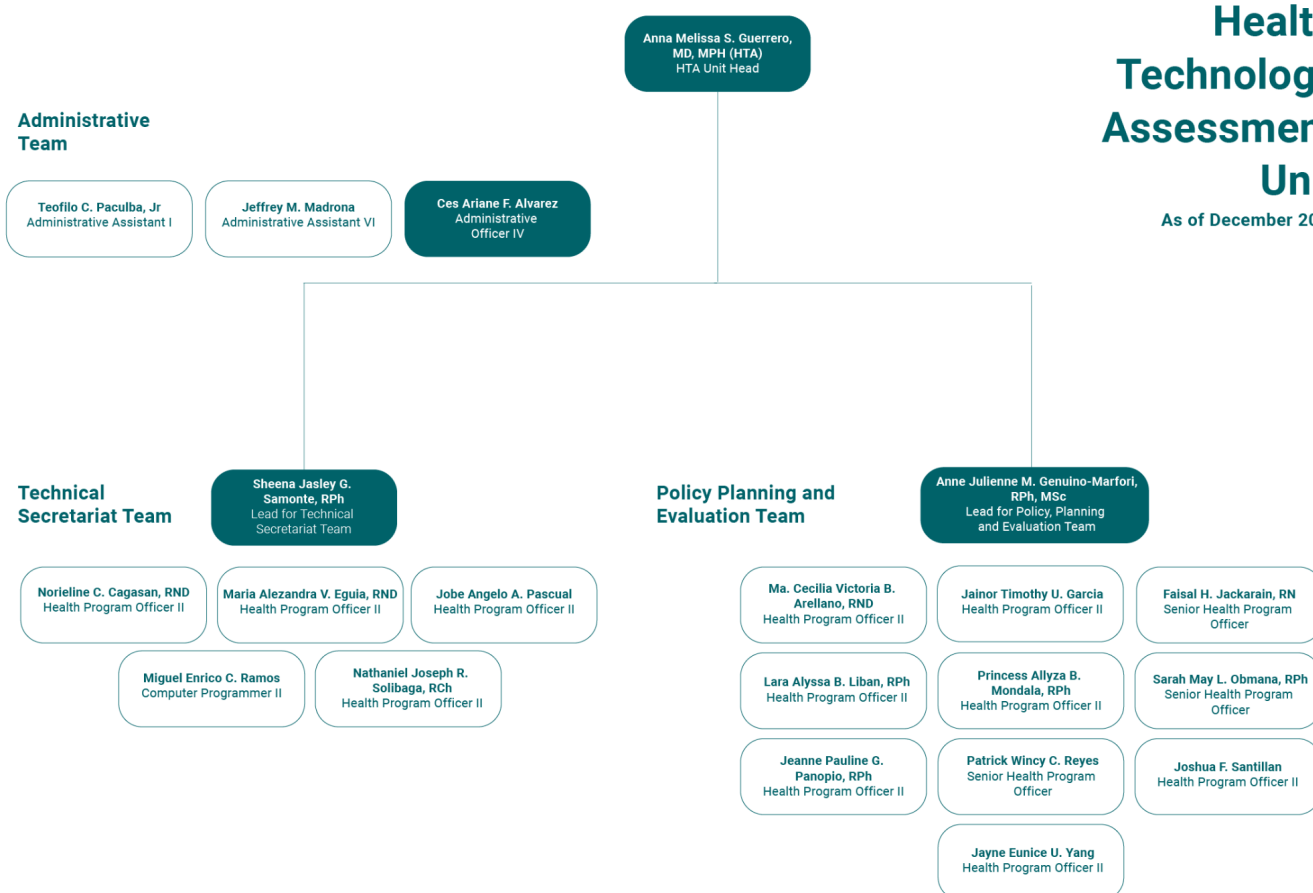
The HTAC Subcommittees perform initial review of HTA reports and submissions from all relevant stakeholders.

They are constituted according to the broad types of health technologies. Depending on the nature of topics, some require joint assessments of Subcommittees.

THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT UNIT (HTAU)

Health Technology Assessment Unit

As of December 2021



The [Health Technology Assessment Unit \(HTAU\)](#) is composed of the Administrative, Technical Secretariat, and Policy, Planning and Evaluation teams. HTAU supports the HTAC with evidence review, governance, management, and operations.

HTA Philippines continues to work towards helping provide safe, effective, efficient, fair, affordable, and responsive health care for all Filipinos.

OUR VISION

An institution that champions evidence-informed policies and decisions that will enable Filipinos to access quality, effective, and affordable health technologies

OUR MISSION

To provide technical guidance on the optimal use of health technologies in the pursuit of Universal Health Care in the Philippines

OUR CORE VALUES



OUR GOALS

With the goal to institutionalize and implement HTA as a fair and transparent priority setting mechanism in the achievement of Universal Healthcare, the Unit plans to:

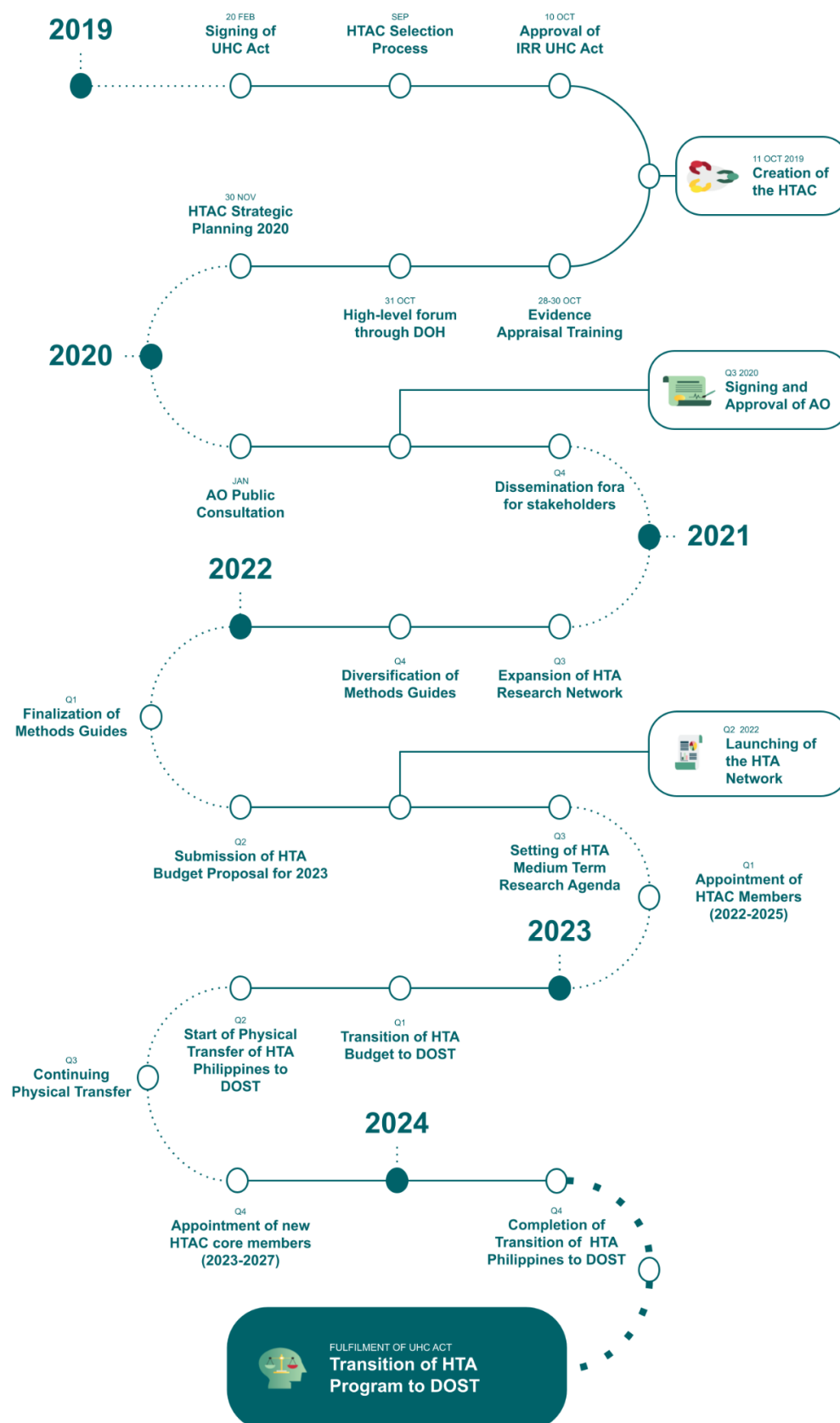
- Uphold good governance in the implementation of HTA by ensuring adherence to set standards
- Produce timely and evidence-based health technology assessment reports that are responsive to the needs of healthcare policymakers and providers
- Create a conducive ecosystem for HTA collaboration locally and internationally
- Ensure an inclusive and effective engagement with all stakeholders

OUR TARGETS

Indicators	Definition	Annual Target
<i>Indicator 1: Percent of timely and high quality evidence-based recommendations</i>	Proportion of HTAC recommendations released out of the total priority topics submitted to HTAU and HTAC	80%
<i>Indicator 2: Percent of adopted recommendation to inform coverage decisions and policies</i>	Proportion of HTAC recommendations adopted out of the total recommendations submitted by HTAC to policymakers	100%

YEAR IN REVIEW

HTA IN THE PHILIPPINES: A ROADMAP

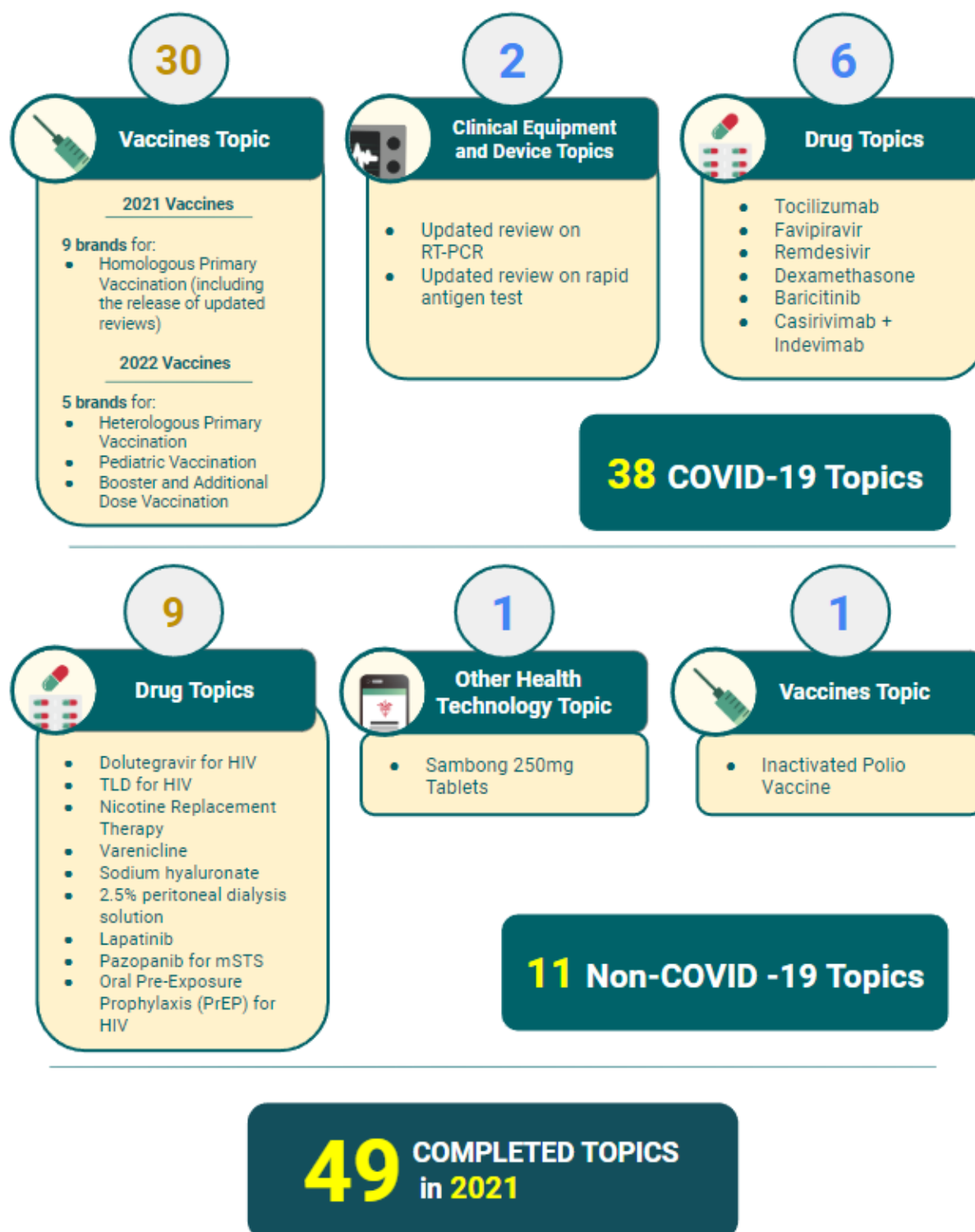


In 2019, the HTAC and HTAU had planned for fiscal year 2020 to focus on developing the normative guidelines for implementation, and on reviewing existing health technologies in preparation of the HTA of new health technologies as HTA Philippines gears towards streamlining health financing of interventions and services under the context of the UHC Act mandates. However, with the emergence of COVID-19, the priority and resources of the health sector shifted, consequently shifting the work of HTAC and HTAU to the rapid evidence review of health technologies for the public health emergency. Hence, from 2020 to 2021, majority of topics assessed and recommendations released by the HTAC and HTAU are on COVID-19 technologies (e.g., diagnostic tests, investigational drugs, vaccines) following an expedited HTA process track.

In 2022, priority topics are anticipated to still cover COVID-19 technologies alongside non-COVID-19 technologies as the health sector steadily picks up on its UHC mandates and wider health sector priorities. Further, 2022 key priorities and milestones include the development of technology-specific methods guides, institutionalization of HTA Network, opening of general HTA topics, development of stakeholder engagement framework, and laying the groundwork for the eventual transition of HTA Philippines to DOST.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Evidence reviews to inform policy-making



All Evidence Summaries are posted in our website: hta.doh.gov.ph

Access the HTAC recommendations here:

<https://hta.doh.gov.ph/status-of-health-technologies-assessments/>

- 2021 accomplishments vs targets

	Indicators	TARGETS	ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT (as of 31 December 2021)
1	Percent of timely and high quality evidence-based recommendations <i>(out of all priority topics submitted to HTAU and HTAC)</i>	80%	63.64% (49/77)
2	Percent of adopted recommendation to inform coverage decisions and policies <i>(out of all recommendations submitted by HTAC)</i>	100%	100% (49/49)

Technical Products of HTA Philippines

Guidance Documents

ANNEX A
DOH
GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT AS AN ADJUNCT TO THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SARS-CoV-2
Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC)

Evidence Summaries

Use of Rapid Antibody-based Test Kits (RATs) for Various Use Cases for COVID-19
RAPID REVIEW

Assessment Reports

Use of Rapid Antibody-based Test Kits for Various Use Cases for COVID-19
RAPID REVIEW

Issuances

Department Circular No. 2021-001

Minutes of the Meeting

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PHILIPPINES
(CONFIDENTIAL - INTENDED FOR MEETING)

Public Briefers

Republic of the Philippines
Health Technology Assessment
Department of Health

Stakeholder Reports

HTA Philippines
Annual Report 2020

Social Media Cards

ANNOUNCEMENT
The Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) Recommends COVID-19 Vaccine Booster and Additional dose: Guidance and Conditions on Implementation on 28 September 2021.
Learn More:
bit.ly/HTAC-BoosterandAdditionalDose

HTA Philippines Activities and Meetings for 2021

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INTERNAL - HTAU MEETINGS

- 25 HTAC Meetings
- 20 Subcommittee Meetings
- 22 Joint SC Meetings
- 3 Technical Working Group Meetings
- 4 Workshops

21

EXTERNAL - HTAU MEETINGS

- 7 Focus Group Discussions
- 1 Meeting with pharmaceutical companies
- 2 Alignment Meetings with the FDA
- 4 Alignment Meetings with DOST
- 3 Alignment Meetings with DOH Programs
- 2 Meetings with UP-CPH for COVID-19 International Modelling Consortium
- 2 DOST Progress Report Meetings

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Requested by Other Stakeholders

- 1 National Task Force
- 15 Anti-Red Tape Act
- 38 DOST Technical Group on Vaccine Evaluation and Selection Meetings
- World Health Organization - Western Pacific Regional Office
- 4 Alignment Meetings with HITAP, NUS and NIH
- PHAP-ISPOR-PAPO Consultation on HTA Process and Methods
- CIRS Workshop Presentation on "HTA assessment in the Philippines" by Dr. Marita Reyes
- Pharmaceutical Industries

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Organized by the Department Of Health

- 17 All Expert Group Meetings
- 11 National Vaccination Deployment and Central Office Runs
- Exploratory meeting on strengthening relationship of DPCB National Practice Guidelines, HTAC, and HTAU
- Initial discussion on the terms of engagement of Living CPG
- Initial meeting on the National Clinical Practice Guidelines Initiatives

5

Invited by the Senate and/or Congress for Hearing/ Expert Insights

- Position on the Use of Interim Phase III Clinical Trials as Sufficient Basis in the Evaluation and Recommendation of Vaccines for COVID-19 Under an Emergency Use Mechanism as Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Position on Resolution No. 79, "Resolution Calling for the Constitution of the Senate Committee of the Whole to COnduct an Inquiry, in Aid of Legislation, on the National COVID-19 Vaccination Program with the End in View of Determining the Measures Necessary to Fully Prepare for Its Nationwide Implementation"
- Position on Senate Bill 2029, "An Act Exempting Medications and Vaccines from Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Healthcare Act, during public health emergencies"
- Senate Bill No. 2042 or An Act Expediting the Purchase and Administration of Vaccines for the Protection Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 by Exempting Local Government Units From Compliance with the Procurement Requirements Under Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise Known as the 'Government Procurement Reform Act,' and other Related Laws
- Position on the Proposed House Bills No. 8031 (An Act Providing for Additional Mechanisms to Accelerate the Recovery and Bolster the Resiliency of the Philippine Economy, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes), No. 8059 (An Act Providing Mechanisms for Accelerated Economic Recovery and Socioeconomic Relief, Appropriating Funds for the Purpose, and for Other Purposes), and No. 8628 (An Act Providing for Additional Mechanisms to Accelerate the Recovery and Bolster the Resiliency of the Philippine Economy, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes)

- **Hosted by HTAU**

- **Internal**

- HTAC Meetings (25)

- SC Meetings (20)

- Subcommittee-level Strategic Planning
 - Subcommittee on Drugs Meetings
 - COVID-19 Investigational Drugs (Remdesivir, Tocilizumab, Baricitinib, Dexamethasone, Favipiravir)
 - Assessment of nilotinib
 - Scoping consultation of Zoledronic Acid
 - Assessment of Tenofovir + Lamivudine + Dolutegravir
 - Assessment of Dolutegravir
 - COVID-19 Investigational Drugs (Bamlanivimab+Etesevimab, Infliximab)
 - Casirivimab+Imdevimab
 - Clinical Equipment and Devices Meetings
 - Rapid Antigen Test Kits for the Diagnosis of COVID-19
 - RT-PCR Testing for COVID-19
 - Updating of Rapid Antigen Test Recommendation
 - Preventive and Promotive Health Services Meeting
 - Wastewater Testing for COVID-19 Surveillance
 - Medical and Surgical Procedure Meetings (4)
 - Endorsement of TFEC drug topics
 - Finalization of research questions of drugs under scoping review (Citicoline, Ticagrelor, Tirofiban)
 - Validation of cost analysis of Dabigatran and local validation of economic model of Rivaroxaban
 - Traditional Medicine (3)
 - Alignment on the assessment workstreams for 2021
 - Meeting with PITAHC on development of Methods Guides for HTA of Traditional Medicine
 - Insulin Glargine
 - Joint SC Meetings (22)
 - Vaccines & Preventive and Promotive Health
 - 2021 COVID-19 Vaccines
 - 9 brands for:
 - Homologous Primary Vaccination (including the release of updated reviews)
 - 2022 Vaccines
 - 5 brands for:
 - Heterologous Primary Vaccination
 - Pediatric Vaccination
 - Booster and Additional Dose Vaccination
 - Drugs & Preventive and Promotive Health

- Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
 - Clinical Equipment and Devices & Preventive and Promotive Health
 - Face shield
- Technical Working Group Meetings (3)
 - Workshop Series with DOST and HTAC on Org Structure, HTA Research Network and Roles and Functions of the HTA Division Staff
 - Stakeholder Engagement
- Workshops (4)
 - Series with DOST and HTAC on Org Structure, HTA Research Network and Roles and Functions of the HTA Division Staff
 - Strategic Planning for 2022
- **External**
 - Focus Group Discussions (7)
 - Vaccine Acceptability
 - Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV
 - Meeting with pharmaceutical companies (1)
 - Parallel submission of dossiers
 - Alignment Meetings with the FDA (2)
 - Regulatory status of pending FEC drugs and mechanism for validating application status for automatic renewal
 - Interim requirements for the HTA of medical devices
 - Alignment Meetings with DOST (4)
 - Ways Forward from the Workshops on HTAC Philippines Organizational Structure and HTA Network
 - Updates for HTA Research Agenda 2021 and HTAC Philippines Organizational Structure
 - Meeting with DOH and DOST Undersecretaries for HTA Network, HTA Transition and DBM Submission of HTAC Philippines Organizational Structure
 - HTAU 2022 Strategic Planning: HTA related requests and DOST Action Points
 - Alignment Meetings with DOH Programs (3)
 - Alignment with DPCB on Status of Topic Nominations, Deficiencies and Accommodation of Queries to HTAU
 - Clarificatory meetings for IPV submission
 - Meetings with UP-CPH for COVID-19 International Modelling Consortium (2)
 - DOST Progress Report Meetings (2)
 - Final technical report of Development of Living Clinical Practice Guidelines for COVID-19 Management, Infection Prevention and Control Project
 - First Quarter Progress Report of Rapid Review of the Evidence on Prioritized COVID 19 Technologies and Intervention Project (Vaccine Plus)

- **Organized by DOH**

- All Expert Group Meetings (17)
- National Vaccination Deployment and Central Office Runs (11)
- Exploratory meeting on strengthening relationship of DPCB National Practice Guidelines, HTAC, and HTAU
- Initial discussion on the terms of engagement of Living CPG
- Initial meeting on the National Clinical Practice Guidelines Initiatives

- **Invited by the Senate and/or Congress for Hearing/ Expert Insights**

- Position on the Use of Interim Phase III Clinical Trials as Sufficient Basis in the Evaluation and Recommendation of Vaccines for COVID-19 Under an Emergency Use Mechanism as Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Position on Resolution No. 79, “Resolution Calling for the Constitution of the Senate Committee of the Whole to CONduct an Inquiry, in Aid of Legislation, on the National COVID-19 Vaccination Program with the End in View of Determining the Measures Necessary to Fully Prepare for Its Nationwide Implementation”
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- **Requested by Other Stakeholders**

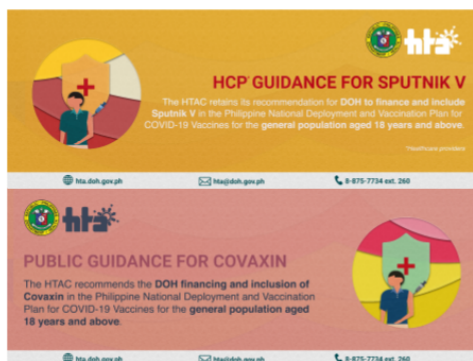
- National Task Force (1)
 - Strategy Update for COVID-19 Vaccines
- Anti-Red Tape Act (15)
 - Alignment Meetings on Concerns and Recommendations on the Accreditation of Molecular Laboratories for COVID-19
 - Clarificatory Meetings on Unspent COVID-19 Funds
 - Alignment Meetings on Policy Guidelines for Breath of Health (BOH) COVID-19 Testing
 - Meeting on Government Procurement of Locally Produced COVID-19

Vaccines

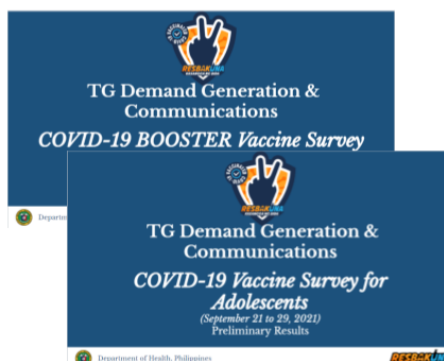
- Follow Up Meetings on FDA Issuance for the Regulatory Guidelines on Medical Devices
- Follow Up Meetings on the Implementation of the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) regarding Green Lane for COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturers
- Alignment Meeting on Remdesivir
- Alignment Meeting on PhilHealth's Benefit Package for Rapid Antigen Test Kits
- DOST Technical Group on Vaccine Evaluation and Selection Meetings (38)
- World Health Organization - Western Pacific Regional Office
 - Costing Library (2)
 - Initial Alignment Meeting with MetaHealth and WHO
 - Alignment Meeting with PhilHealth for Existing Costing Data
 - Meeting with WHO on Remote Training on Quality Assurance of Traditional Medicine
- Alignment Meetings with HITAP, NUS and NIH (4)
 - COVID-19 Disease and Economic Modelling
 - Macroeconomic Impact of COVID-19 Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
- PHAP-ISPOR-PAPO Consultation on HTA Process and Methods
- CIRS Workshop Presentation on "HTA assessment in the Philippines" by Dr. Marita Reyes
- Pharmaceutical Industries
 - IP Biotech on sharing of dossier of CoronaVac
 - AstraZeneca Scientific Exchange Meeting for COVID-19 Therapeutic Developments (1)
 - Philippine Archipelago International Trading Corporation on Sputnik V COVID-19 Vaccine
 - Sharing of dossier
 - Finalization of non-disclosure agreement with DOH Legal Service, HTAU and Atty. Bu Castro

HTA Philippines participation and contribution in DOH-wide policies/ programs

Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccines



Partnership with HPB on COVID-19 Vaccine Surveys



Round Table Discussion with Philhealth on the Development of the Benefit Packages



Development Plan from Joint AO of DOH and PhilHealth



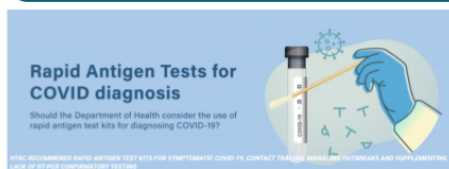
National Cancer Control Strategic Plan



HTA presentation in the UHC Model



COVID-19 Antigen Testing Guidelines of DOH



HTAC-initiated issuances

- Release of SOH-approved recommendations
- Invites to participate in stakeholder surveys
- Call for HTAC nominations
- Interim requirements for non-registrable medical devices

Access the HTA Issuances here: <https://hta.doh.gov.ph/issuances/>

HTA Philippines Institutional Capacity Building

Workshop Series

- **Workshop 1: Creation of HTAC Philippines Organizational Structure at DOST**

This is a two-part workshop that is aimed at supporting the DOST in its preparation to submit the proposed HTA Division staffing pattern and their roles to the Department of Budget and Management in time for the transition.

- Workshop 1.1 on the HTAC Philippines Staffing Pattern (20 July 2021)

- Attendees:

- Representatives from the HTAC Core and Subcommittees, the HTA Unit, and DOST

- Objectives:

- To develop the future organizational structure of the HTA Division that will support the operations of the HTAC when it is transferred to the DOST as one of its attached agencies
 - To identify estimated annual budgetary requirement to support the staff and its operations including physical facilities and utilities

- Outputs:

- Revised organizational chart with general functions of each section
 - *Annual budgetary requirement to be submitted by DOST following the revisions on the organizational chart*

- Workshop 1.2 on the Roles and Functions of the HTA Philippines Staff (07 September 2021)

- Attendees:

- Representatives from the HTAC Core and Subcommittees, the HTA Unit, and DOST

- Objectives:

- To determine the job descriptions of the proposed positions for the HTAC Philippines
 - To specify the organizational structure of the HTA office that will support the operations of HTA Council upon transfer to DOST
 - To identify estimated annual budgetary requirement to support the staff and its operations including physical facilities and utilities

- Outputs:

- Job description per staff following the revised organizational structure

**Budgetary requirement to be identified pending alignment with*

DBM

- **Workshop 2: HTA Network (20 July 2021)**

This workshop is aimed at spearheading the creation of the network which will implement the HTA research agenda and will conduct capacity-building activities on HTA. The creation of this network will be led by the DOST, as stipulated in Administrative Order 2020-0041. The structure discussed was mainly based on the output of an intern at the HTAU taking up Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies Program of the UP College of Public Health.

- Attendees:
 - Representatives from the core and all subcommittees of the HTAC Core and Subcommittees, the HTA Unit, DOST, and interns from the Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies Program of the UP College of Public Health
- General Objective:
 - To develop a preliminary work plan for the organization and institutionalization of the HTA Network in the Philippines
- Specific Objectives:
 - To build consensus on an acceptable structure of the HTA Network
 - To generate ideas on how to engage potential partners based on the priority topics and outputs of the HTA Council
 - To develop a preliminary work plan in the areas of HTA research implementation, dissemination and capacity building
- Output:
 - Preliminary work plan for the HTA Network including the proposed design and timelines

- **Workshop 3: Stakeholder Engagement (with ongoing preparations)**

This set of workshops is aimed at heightening stakeholders' appreciation of the HTA process, and engagement with HTAC in different HTA steps. The main activities for stakeholder engagement, aside from mapping, are the creation of a framework for identifying stakeholders, creation of the Philippine HTA Social Value Principles guidance document, and eventually, the conduct of seminar-workshops for patients and civil society organizations.

In light of assessment priorities, HTAC was only able to have preliminary meetings for the said activities postponed to 2022.

- **Internal HTAC Workshop for Stakeholder Mapping (pre-meeting on 27 August 2021)**
 - **General Objectives:**
 - To adopt a plan on increasing the efficiency of HTA stakeholder consultation activities
 - **Specific Objectives:**
 - To validate the target stakeholders of the HTAC and HTAU through stakeholder mapping (specific for each HTAC Subcommittee)
 - To determine potential stakeholder concerns/questions for HTA
 - To discuss post-workshop action points and other plans in preparation for the series of meetings and workshops

engaging stakeholders

- Target Attendees:
 - HTAC Technical Working Group (TWG), HTAC members, HTA Unit
- Target Output:
 - Stakeholder Analysis Report by the HTAC and HTAU using the tool kit developed with the TWG

Trainings for HTA Philippines

- **National University of Singapore & Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program**
 - Introduction to HTA
 - Advanced Modelling for Economic Evaluation
 - Distributional Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
- **National University of Singapore - Health Intervention and Policy Evaluation Research**
 - Impact Evaluation on Health Interventions
- **John Hopkins University & Mahidol University**
 - Teaching Vaccine Economics Everywhere: Economic Evaluation
- **London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine & Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health**
 - Utilizing mathematical modeling to aid governance in Universal Health Care
- **Food and Drug Administration - Philippines**
 - Pharmaceutical Product Registration - Labelling Guidelines
 - Pharmacovigilance 101

External Engagements

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS



Development of UP-HTA Program
Current efforts for short courses and postgraduate studies



Patient Engagement
Helped facilitate the PAPO Workshop on the HTA Nomination for patient groups

UP College of Public Health
Master of Arts in Health Policy Studies
(Health Science Track)

Internship with DOH HTAU
Guidance on the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan; informed the HTA Research Network structure



PHAP-ISPOR-PAPO Consultations
Participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues on HTA process concerns



Philippine COVID-19 Living Recommendations
Engagement with COVID-19 Living Clinical Practice Guidelines (LCPG) Group
Clinical assessments of Vaccines and Investigational Drugs



By-Invitation Lectures on HTA
Extension of capacity strengthening and awareness among universities, societies and companies

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



**World Health
Organization**



HTAsiaLink
THE NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AMONG HTA AGENCIES IN ASIA

NICE

National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence



**ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS**



โครงการประเมินเทคโนโลยีและนโยบายด้านสุขภาพ
Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program

Read more about our International partners here: <https://hta.doh.gov.ph/external-partners/>

- **WHO Technical Assistance on the Development of the DOH HTAU Health Technology Assessment Costing Library**

- The overall objective of this technical assistance in partnership with the WHO is to develop the standard costing methodology and a library of reference values for health costs, both direct and indirect, relevant in the conduct of health technology assessments in the Philippines.
- For the initial phase of the technical assistance, the WHO aims to develop a roadmap towards the creation of the costing library for HTAU. In addition, the technical assistance will develop a criteria for the selection of hospitals based on PhilHealth's pilot costing data gathered in 2018. The project also aims to craft the guidelines on how the existing PhilHealth costing data can be used for HTA purposes.

- **ASEAN Follow up Assessment**

- This study was conducted to (1) assess the current status of HTA institutionalization of each ASEAN member states as well as capacity gaps/needs, and (2) identify and map potential capacity building activities on HTA which could be undertaken at the regional level for the next work plan under ASEAN Health Cluster 3. The study was completed and officially published by the ASEAN Secretariat last 15 September 2021. To access the final report, click [here](#).

- **CORESIA Regional Study on Vaccine Certificate**

- The COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Research and Decision Support Initiative in Asia (CORESIA) is a survey that is part of a regional study headed by research teams from Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) Thailand, Ministry of Public Health Thailand and the National University of Singapore (NUS) together with members from countries across Asia. In collaboration with the aforementioned agencies and institutions, the Department of Health, through the Health Technology Assessment Unit (HTAU) partook and led this survey in the Philippines.
- This survey aims to guide the current efforts of the government in crafting and implementing an effective and fair policy on vaccine certificates. This will also aid and support countries in re-starting local, national, regional, and international activities, relative to the implications of COVID-19 vaccination on trade, travel, employment, and other social and economic activities. On 06 August 2021, the [CORESIA public survey](#) was disseminated to the general public (18 years old and above) in the Philippines through the HTA email campaign and website, and official DOH social media platforms.

- **NUS-HITAP COVID-19 Modelling**

- This project, in collaboration with the University of the Philippines - National Health Institute (UP-NIH), HITAP, and NUS, aims to create a Philippine model to examine the epidemiologic and economic values of the different COVID-19 vaccines that the Food and Drug Administration Philippines has granted EUA or are in the process of applying for one. Given the emergence of variants of concern and rapidly evolving vaccination strategies for COVID-19, the study has evolved to focus on the epidemiologic and economic value of COVID-19 vaccine booster vaccination against variants of concern. The study is an ongoing project and will be completed by June 2022.

- **9th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference**

- Last 11-13 October 2021, HTA Philippines was fortunate to have participated virtually in the 9th HTAsiaLink Annual Conference 2021 hosted by the Ministry of Health Indonesia. The HTAsiaLink conference facilitates the exchange of HTA knowledge and experience among member agencies, including HTA Philippines' partners. This year, the general topics discussed were on the appraisal of UHC benefits in different countries, use of real-world evidence in the current HTA process, challenges and practices in the conduct of HTA during the pandemic and post-pandemic HTA strategies. HTAC Chair, Dr. Marita V. Tolentino-Reyes talked about the Philippine HTA process through her presentation - *"Appraising the UHC Benefit Baskets in the Philippines: From Topic Selection to Final Recommendation"*.
- Seven topics submitted by HTA Philippines were also accepted and presented during the breakout sessions for oral and poster presentations. Among these, two team members were adjudged as best presenters: Ms. Sheena Jasley G. Samonte, RPh was awarded 2nd best oral presenter while Ms. Lara Alyssa B. Liban, RPh was awarded 3rd best poster presenter. The complete list of presented topics by the office are as follows:

Oral presentations:

1. Institutionalization of Health Technology Assessment in The Philippines: Milestones and Ways Forward
Presenter: Ms. Sheena Jasley G. Samonte, RPh - 2nd Best Oral Presenter
2. Always Double Check: A Reassessment of Cost-Utility Analysis of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines in the Philippines
Presenter: Ms. Sarah May L. Obmana, RPh
3. A Methodological Approach for Calculating Thresholds for Household Financial Impact of Health in the Philippines as part of the HTA Topic Prioritization .
Presenter: Mr. Patrick Wincy C. Reyes
4. A Systematic Review on the Best Community Organizing Practices in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health (DRRM-H) in the Philippines.
Presenter: Mr. Faisal H. Jackarain, RN, CLSSYB

Poster Presentations:

1. Use of Pooled Testing for the screening and surveillance of COVID-19: A Rapid Review and Meta-analysis
Presenter: Ms. Lara Alyssa B. Liban, RPh - 3rd Best Presenter
2. Ethical, Legal, Social, and Health System Implications of Switching from 13-Valent To 10-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine in the Philippines
Presenter: Ms. Sarah May L. Obmana, RPh
3. Hospitalization and Out-Of-Pocket Costs among Covid-19 Patients in The Philippines
Presenter: Ms. Jeanne Pauline G. Panopio, RPh
4. Clinical Efficacy and Safety of Insulin Glargine among Adult Non-Pregnant Patients with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: A Rapid Review
Presenter: Ms. Princess Allyza B. Mondala, RPh

2021 GAPS AND CHALLENGES

General challenges

- Due to the continued state of public health emergency and the limited capacity of the unit, COVID-19 topic requests were prioritized for assessment while drug topics from the previous Formulary Executive Council (FEC) which were passed on to HTAC when the Philippine National Formulary (PNF) review process was subsumed under the HTA process were halted. The office had to constantly reallocate human resources to attend to non-COVID-19 topic requests related to our public health programs that were deemed urgent (i.e., procurement will occur in less than 6 months) by the DOH Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB).
- The office encountered organizational issues in terms of the delays in the official creation of HTAU and in the transition to DOST.
 - Currently, the unit is operating with limited capacity for HTA implementation. The delays in the official creation of HTAU from 2019 to 2021 resulted in a very high turnover rate wherein a total of 14 staff resigned in 2021.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in delays in the transition of the HTA office from DOH to DOST. While the unit has been working closely with DOST on the transition plans, there is still no dedicated HTA counterpart staff at DOST to supplement the current efforts and to begin the official transition of the office.

HTAU Budget/ Planning challenges

2021 HTAU Budget

- The HTAU proposed budget for FY 2021 budget was PHP 33 M. The initially approved National Expenditure Program (NEP) budget for 2021 was PHP 6.5 M. In January 2021, the final approved 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and Senate/Congress insertion for HTAU was PHP 50.952 M.
Impact: Unplanned activities/outputs and procurement to utilize the excess funds such as late procurement process to commission out HTA researchers to DOST (via the HTA Research Network)

2022 HTAU Budget

- The HTAU originally proposed a budget of Php 33.077 M for CY 2022. However, the 2022 NEP levels for HTA approved by the DBM only amounts to Php 13.576 M with Php 6.352 M for HTA Unit JO Salaries and Php 7.224 M for HTA Councils Salaries, which is insufficient to support the operations of the HTAC and HTAU, not just for UHC but also for the COVID-19 response.
- The NEP-approved budget is 58.96% lower than the proposed HTAU budget (PHP 33.077M) and 73.36% lower than the CY 2021 budget (PHP 50.952M). There was a funding gap of PHP 19.501 M.

Budget for 2021	Proposed Budget for 2022
	HTAU-Proposed: PHP 33.077 M
DBM-Approved: PHP 6M	<p>Approved Budget: ₱13.576 M DBM-Approved: PHP 6.352M (for appeal) Additional: PHP 7.224M [for HTAC Salaries]</p> <p>The current approved budget of HTA for CY 2022 has a funding gap of ₱ -19.501 M (₱13.576 M - ₱33.077 M).</p> <p>73.36% lower than the CY 2021 budget 58.96% lower than the proposed budget of the HTA unit</p>
GAA-Approved 2021: PHP 50.952 M (budget increase through appeals; 10.9M HTA Research Agenda 2021)	
Research funds PHP 10.9M for external commission via negotiated procurement	<p>Note: Research funds 10M not enough to cover research agenda Requesting DOST for complementary research funds</p>

- HTAU appealed to the Congress the additional Php 19.501 M via a correspondence transmitted through DOH-Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau (HPDPB) on 22 September 2021.
- As of January 2022, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2022 approved budget for HTAU is PHP 33.077M.

Evidence-related challenges

- The dynamic changes in available evidence pose challenges on the sustainability of living reviews, as this will require more frequent updating of outputs and additional human resource.
- Evidence is rapidly evolving, but is still limited. Hence, there was a need to utilize low quality evidence such as preprint studies and expert opinion.
- The unavailability of comprehensive local epidemiological data limits the analysis that can be done to inform recommendations.
- The validity and generalizability of real world evidence are limited.
- There was a need to balance other considerations in converting the strength of evidence to the level of recommendation.

HTA Governance and Process Issues

- There was a need to adjust the HTA process (i.e., foregoing consultative steps that are implemented in a general HTA process to be able to complete the reviews within short timelines and ensure quick access to COVID-19 technologies.
- There were experienced delays in the institutionalization of the HTA Research Network.
- There were some difficulties encountered in making technical recommendations clear and actionable for policymakers and frontliners.
- There were challenges in the applicability of recommendations due to implementation or operational limits at the national and local levels.
- There were some difficulties encountered during coordination with other bodies and authorities involved in the pandemic response that further needs improvement.
- There were limitations on bringing in the perspectives of patients and carers in the current rapid review process due to short timelines of assessments.

WAYS FORWARD

Part 1: GENERAL PLANS

Organizational Activities/ Strategies

- Ongoing processing for the plantilla position hiring
- Close coordination with DOST on the submission of the HTAU positions in DOST to facilitate smooth transition
- Budget appeals for 2022 including the appeal to directly allocate HTA Research Network funds to DOST

HTA Methods and Processes

- Close coordination with DOH and PhilHealth on topic priorities and procurement timelines
- Widening the evidence base that is fit-for-purpose (pandemic response)
- Continuous development of the HTA Research Network through partnership with research institutions that will complement the current conduct of assessments and develop training programs (certification courses, HTA postgraduate program, HTA fellowship program)
- Upcoming HTAC + HTAU Workshop to develop more effective strategies on stakeholder engagement
- Development of the PHL Costing Library in partnership with the WHO
- Development of methodological guidelines for specific health technologies - devices, traditional medicine, artificial intelligence/digital health technologies
- Sustained collaborations with local experts (UP Manila, LCPG) and international partners (NICE, WHO, HITAP, NUS) and other technical assistance providers (USAID)

Part 2: 2022 GOALS AND ACTIVITIES PER MAJOR WORK STREAM (WS)

WS1: General Track Opening

2022 Goals	Opening of the general process track in March 2022
General Activities	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with DOH and PhilHealth on topic priorities and Benefit Package Development Plan • Reconfiguration of HTA submission forms and translation of patient nomination forms • Dissemination of tutorial videos and sample dossier to guide topic nomination • HTAC to set the total number of topics that will be accepted for 2022 Q1 (March) with the following points for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available funding ○ Some companies will already submit HTAs (for validation and appraisal of HTAC) <p>March</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with stakeholders on the final prioritized topics to proceed to HTA
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WS2: Stakeholder Engagement

2022 Goals	<p>Goal 1: Creation of a framework for identifying stakeholders for engagement as part of the Process and Methods Guide</p> <p>Goal 2: Creation of the PHL HTA Social Value Principles guidance document</p> <p>Goal 3: Conduct of HTA seminar-workshops for patients and CSOs</p>
General Activities	<p>Goal 1: Creation of a framework for identifying stakeholders for engagement as part of the Methods Guide</p> <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of stakeholder analysis / stakeholder engagement workshop <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of guidance document on stakeholder identification and revision of Methods Guide to refer to the guidance document <p>February to March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of initial stakeholders for the stakeholder registry <p>Goal 2: Creation of the PHL HTA Social Value Principles guidance document</p> <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of HTA Social Values principle guidance document for the general public and stakeholders <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with the stakeholders • Release of the finalized HTA Social Values Principle guidance document for the general public and stakeholders <p>Goal 3: Conduct of HTA seminar-workshops for patients and CSOs</p> <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of training needs assessment

	<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-design training activities with stakeholders, to be overseen by the stakeholder engagement TWG <p>October-December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of trainings
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WS3: Assessment of TFEC topics

2022 Goals	Completion of all pending TFEC topics by 2022
General Activities	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOH to develop a standard mechanism/ algorithm for the screening of topics for review/rejection of TFEC topics (based on HITAP, NICE, CADTH, MaHTAS, ACE, Indonesia HTA, Korea HIRA) Complete submission package and begin preliminary scoping for endorsement <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOH to identify TFEC topics that will proceed to reviews using the screening algorithm DOH to endorse of final topics to DOST DOST to call for proposal <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOST to commission topics through the HTA Network <p>April - July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic assessment

WS4: Assessment of COVID-19 Health Technologies

2022 Goals	Completion of expedited topics all throughout the year through a systematic scheduling of review of prioritized COVID-19 topics
General Activities	<p>Every last month of the preceding quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly nomination of topics from DOH and PhilHealth Alignment with external assessors every last month of the preceding quarter, and with DPCB and PhilHealth as needed Topic assessment <p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring and training of staff

WS5: HTAC Creation

2022 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of HTAC 2022-2025 • Development of training program for new HTAC members • Development of 3-Year end-of-term accomplishment report
General Activities	<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for nominations for HTAC members <p>July - August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new Screening Committee <p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening of the Screening Committee • Appointment of HTAC members by the Secretary of Health

WS6: 3-Year Transition Plan with DOST

2022 Goals	Commence the implementation of the 3-year transition plan
General Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and physical reporting of DOST HTA Transition Team that will provide logistical, secretariat and administrative support to HTA workshops and other activities • Development and submission of budget for FY 2023 - both for DOH HTAU and DOST PCHRD

WS7: DOH-DOST 2023 Budget Proposal Development

2022 Goals	<p>Submission* of the 2023 budget proposal to DBM in a timely manner, both by DOST and DOH</p> <p><i>*Parallel submission by DOH in the event that the DOST budget will not be approved</i></p>
General Activities	<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop to develop the 2023 budget proposals <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of budget proposal for FY 2023

WS8: HTA Network

2022 Goals	Goal 1: Launching of a functional HTA network
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	Goal 2: Implementation of the HTA research agenda 2021 (via continuing appropriations) and completion of the assessment of pending TFEC topics and general track topics (2022 funding support by DOST)
General Activities	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOST to map all HTA experts in the country (with attention to UP College of Public Health [UP CPH], and UP College of Medicine - Department of Clinical Epidemiology (UPCM-DCE]) <p>February - July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTA Network Policy Framework Document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Workshop Series for the development of the HTA Network Policy Framework Document through Joint Administrative Order (JAO) ◦ JAO Public Consultation ◦ Signing of JAO ◦ Launching of HTA Network through DOH Virtual Presser • Capacity Building Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Coordination with UP Manila for UP HTA Program including the development of training modules, and conduct of short lectures and workshop trainings • HTA Medium Term Research Agenda Setting

WS9: DOST Submission of HTA Plantilla Positions

2022 Goals	Submission of the organizational structure and HTAO Plantilla positions under DOST to DBM
General Activities	<p>December 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative meetings with DOST to finalize the submission <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification to DBM of organization structure submission of the first 30% of the positions <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writeshop for the justification of the remaining 70% plantilla positions • Submission of the remaining 70% of the positions

WS 10: System of Quality Management of HTAU

2022 Goals	Establishment of HTAU Quality Management System (ISO)
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General Activities	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with DOH-HHRDB for guidance on establishing the HTAU-QMS • Assignment of QMS Officer <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of ISO Team
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Part 3: DOH-DOST TRANSITION PLANS

2022

- Q1
 - Hiring of the initial plantilla positions in the DOH
 - Hiring of the HTA transition team in the DOST
 - DOH-DOST Writeshop for HTA Transition and HTA Network
 - Submission of Proposed Organizational Structure to DBM
- Q2
 - Launching of the HTA Network
 - Submission of HTA Budget Proposal for 2023
- Q3
 - Selection Period of HTAC Members (2022-2025)
 - Setting of HTA Medium Term Research Agenda
- Q4
 - Appointment of HTAC Members (2022-2025)
 - Approval of 30% plantilla positions in the DOST

2023

- Q1
 - Transition of HTA Budget to DOST
- Q2
 - Start of Physical Transfer of HTA Philippines to DOST
- Q3
 - Continuing Physical Transfer of HTA Philippines to DOST
- Q4
 - Appointment of new HTAC core members (2023-2027)

2024

- Q1
 - Completion of Transition of HTA Philippines to DOST

**Plantilla Positions and Physical Transfer of HTA Philippines to DOST*

**HTA Network*

**Budget*

**HTAC Creation*

ANNEXES

ANNEX A. HTA GOVERNANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Title	Highlights	Link
<p>Republic Act No. 11223</p> <p>An Act Instituting Universal Health Care for All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System, and Appropriating Funds Therefor</p>	<p>Formalizes HTA as a priority setting mechanism for all health technologies procured through DOH and PhilHealth funds</p>	<p>https://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/ra_17/RA11223.pdf</p>
<p>Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223)</p>	<p>Details key players in the conduct of HTA, and the specific roles of HTAC in the pursuit of UHC</p>	<p>https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/basic-page/UHC-IRR-signed.pdf</p>
<p>Administrative Order DOH AO No. 2020-0041</p> <p>New Implementing Guidelines on Health Technology Assessment to Guide Funding Allocation and Coverage Decisions in support of Universal Health Care</p>	<p>Sets the HTA governance and operational framework through its annexes, the Process and Methods Guides</p>	<p>AO 2020-0041: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PVMKo7DDz4j0LIr0tOi8hniSg7sT4oN_/view</p> <p>Philippine HTA Process Guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yJl8_D5VgKbp8mGkKJUNH39vzbBiVuZf/view</p> <p>Philippine HTA Methods Guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yJl8_D5VgKbp8mGkKJUNH39vzbBiVuZf/view</p>
<p>Memorandum DOH</p> <p>Acceptance of Minor Inclusions in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF) for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) following the PNF System for Drugs</p>	<p>Refines the HTA track for inclusions in the PNF</p>	<p>https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2020/11/18/memo-on-the-acceptance-of-minor-inclusions-in-the-philippine-national-for-mulary-pnf-for-health-technology-assessment-hta-following-the-pnf-system-for-drugs/</p>

ANNEX B. SUMMARY OF 2021 ASSESSMENTS WITH HTAC RECOMMENDATIONS

Health Technology	Recommendation	Link
March 2021		
2.5% Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Solution	Recommends inclusion of 2.5% PD (2L and 5L bottle/bag) in the PNF	https://bit.ly/HTAC-recommendation-PDsolution-Na-Hyaluronate-minor-inclusion
0.1% Sodium Hyaluronate	Recommends inclusion of 0.1% Sodium Hyaluronate (5mL and 15mL bottle) in the PNF	
April 2021		
CoronaVac	The HTAC maintains its recommendation for the emergency use of <i>CoronaVac</i> to reduce the burden of COVID-19 in a healthy population, 18-59 years of age, with low risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Coronavac-Recommendation
Sputnik V	The HTAC recommends the emergency use of <i>Sputnik V</i> to reduce the burden of COVID-19 among eligible populations aged 18 years and older.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-SputnikV-Recommendation
Janssen	The HTAC recommends the emergency use of <i>Janssen</i> Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) Vaccine to reduce the burden of COVID-19 among the population 18 years of age and older.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Janssen-Recommendation
Rapid Antigen Testing (RAgT)	The HTAC maintains that RT-PCR remains the standard diagnostic test for COVID-19, and would like to emphasize that the following interim recommendations on rapid antigen testing are subject to change pending new evidence.	https://bit.ly/RAgT-April2021
RT-PCR	RT-PCR testing using nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) and oropharyngeal swab (OPS) remains to be the most sensitive test for COVID-19. The HTAC recommends the use of RT-PCR at or shortly after the onset of illness for symptomatic patients; or at least five (5) to seven (7) days after exposure to a suspected index case.	https://bit.ly/RT-PCR-April2021
May 2021		

Moderna	The HTAC recommends the emergency use of COVID-19 Vaccine <i>Moderna</i> to reduce the burden of COVID-19 among the population 18 years of age and older. However, in the future, when supply is no longer a problem, there might be a need to reassess given its relatively high cost compared to other vaccines.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Moderna-Recommendation
Remdesivir, Tocilizumab, Baricitinib, And Favipiravir	<p>Interim recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends the use of the following drugs for the following indications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remdesivir - In addition to dexamethasone, among COVID-19 patients who have oxygen saturation of < 94% and/or requiring oxygen supplementation but are not on high flow nasal cannula or mechanical ventilation. ○ Tocilizumab - In addition to systemic steroids, in patients showing respiratory deterioration and/or requiring high doses of oxygen and with elevated markers of inflammation ○ Baricitinib - In combination with remdesivir, in hospitalized patients with COVID-19 who cannot take corticosteroids and require oxygen supplementation. • Recommends against the use of the following drugs for the following populations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remdesivir - Among patients who (a) do not require oxygen supplementation and have oxygen saturation of $\geq 94\%$, and (b) are on HFNC or mechanical ventilation except in a clinical trial setting. ○ Tocilizumab - Among patients with COVID-19 infection who do not require oxygen supplementation. • Favipiravir - Insufficient evidence to recommend the use to patients diagnosed with COVID-19 	https://bit.ly/HTAC-interim-recommendation-remdesivir-tocilizumab-baricitinib-favipiravir

Dexamethasone	<p>HTAC took note of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dexamethasone is already issued with a Certificate of Product Registration by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA)It is currently listed in the PNF <p>Given these, the HTAC hereby validates that currently PNF-listed drug topics which complied with the documentary requirements of the previous Formulary Executive Council (FEC) are eligible for the funding/reimbursement of DOH and PhilHealth.</p>	https://bit.ly/HTAC-recommendation-dexamethasone
Lapatinib	Recommends non-inclusion of lapatinib in the PNF for the treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer	https://bit.ly/HTAC-recommendation-lapatinib
Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)	Recommends the inclusion of NRT and varenicline in the Philippine Primary Care Formulary	https://bit.ly/HTAC-recommendation-NRT-Varenicline-Primary-Care-Formulary
Varenicline		
June 2021		
Janssen	Based on current evidence reviewed and presented in this updated evidence summary, the HTAC retains its recommendation supporting the emergency use of Janssen Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) Vaccine to reduce the burden of COVID-19 among the population 18 years of age and older.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Janssen-July-Updates
Pfizer	The HTAC maintains its recommendation for the emergency use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (BNT162b2) to reduce the burden of COVID-19, based on updated evidence review.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Pfizer-July-Updates
AstraZeneca (July 2021 Updates)	The HTAC recommends the emergency use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca with a dosing interval of 8-12 weeks to reduce the burden of COVID-19 among eligible populations aged 18 years and older.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-AstraZeneca-July-Updates

Pfizer (July 2021 Updates)	The HTAC maintains its recommendation for the emergency use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (BNT162b2) to reduce the burden of COVID-19, based on updated evidence review.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Pfizer-JulyUpdates
July 2021		
Pazopanib	Recommends non-inclusion of pazopanib as a second-line treatment for metastatic soft-tissue sarcoma in the PNF	https://bit.ly/HTAC-recommendation-pazopanib-mSTS
Sputnik V (July 2021 Updates)	Based on current evidence reviewed and presented in this updated evidence summary, the HTAC retains its recommendation supporting the emergency use of <i>Sputnik V</i> Gam-COVID-Vac COVID-19 Vaccine to reduce the burden of COVID-19 among the population 18 years of age and older.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-SputnikV-JulyUpdates
CoronaVac (July 2021 Updates)	The HTAC updates its recommendation for the emergency use of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero cell), Inactivated [CoronaVac] (Sinovac) to reduce the burden of COVID-19 in the general population aged 18 years and older.	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Coronavac-JulyUpdates
September 2021		
Rapid Antigen Testing (RAgT) (September 2021 Updates)	The HTAC maintains that RT-PCR remains the standard diagnostic test for COVID-19, and would like to emphasize that the following interim recommendations on rapid antigen testing are subject to change pending new evidence.	https://bit.ly/RAgT-Sept2021
Tenofovir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (TLD)	Recommends the inclusion of Tenofovir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (TLD) in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Recommendation-TLD
Dolutegravir (DTG)	Recommends the inclusion of Dolutegravir 50 mg in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)	https://bit.ly/HTAC-DTG
2-dose Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)	Recommends inclusion of 2-dose IPV in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)	https://bit.ly/HTAC-2-dose-IPV-Recommendation

October 2021		
Adolescent Vaccination	<p>The HTAC maintains its recommendation to use Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine among adolescents aged 16 to 17 years and extends this recommendation for use in children aged 12 to 15 years.</p> <p>The HTAC also recommends extending the use of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna among adolescents aged 12 to 17 years.</p>	https://bit.ly/HTAC-PediatricVaccination-Recommendation
November 2021		
Booster and Additional Dose Vaccination for the prevention of COVID-19	<p>The HTAC recommends booster vaccination for priority groups A2 (60 years of age and older) and A1 (healthcare workers) to commence during the 4th quarter of 2021 and administered at least 6 months after the primary series.</p> <p>The HTAC recommends an additional homologous dose to be given at least 28 days after the completion of the initial COVID-19 vaccine series for the following immunocompromised individuals considering studies demonstrating improved immune response after an additional dose/third dose</p>	https://bit.ly/BoosterandAdditionalDose
December 2021		
Sputnik V Gam-COVID-Vac COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 (December Reassessment)	HTAC deems that there is no strong evidence to revise the recommendations dated 25 June 2021 on clinical efficacy and safety of Sputnik V. Furthermore, the relatively high cost of this vaccine, documented issues of delayed deliveries, and challenges experienced during roll out (e.g., stringent and longer time of preparation for the administration of the vaccine and decreased viability due to ambient air requirement) need to be considered in the procurement plans.	https://bit.ly/HTACRecomm_SputnikV_Dec2021Updates
Whole Virion, Inactivated Corona Virus [Covaxin] for the prevention of COVID-19	Recommended for DOH financing and inclusion of Covaxin in the Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines for the general population aged 18 years and above provided that there is	https://bit.ly/HTACRecomm_Covaxin_2021

	sufficient budget to cover its implementation after pending supply negotiations for 2022.	
COVID-19 Vaccine Sinopharm for the prevention of COVID-19	Recommended for DOH financing and inclusion of Sinopharm in the Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines for the general population aged 18 years and above provided that there is sufficient budget to cover its implementation after pending supply negotiations for 2022.	https://bit.ly/HTACRecomm_Sinopharm_2021
Covovax	Recommended for DOH financing and inclusion of Covovax in the Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 among the general population aged 18 years and above provided that there is sufficient budget to cover its implementation after pending supply negotiations in 2022 provided that there is sufficient budget to cover its implementation after pending supply negotiations in 2022	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Recommendation-Covovax
Casirivimab+Imdevimab	Interim recommendation: Not recommended for government financing	https://bit.ly/HTAC-Casi-Imde-Interim-Recommendation