



Republic of the Philippines
Health Technology Assessment
Department of Health

Health Technology Assessment Philippines

Annual Report 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HTA Philippines would like to thank all its stakeholders for all the support it received in accomplishing its milestones, and for the feedback that helped improve the HTA process. In all the steps to reach its milestones, HTA Philippines has striven to involve health providers/ medical societies and allied health professionals, hospitals, and health care organizations; national Department of Health program managers and implementers, including local government units; health authorities from municipal, provincial and city health governments; community leaders and sectoral representatives; patient groups/organizations and the general public; industries; and the academe and researchers.

Most importantly, the HTA Philippines thanks the past and present members of the HTA Council and the HTA Division who enabled all major undertakings leading to the fulfillment of its mandates under the Universal Health Care Law.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

If I must choose the most outstanding accomplishments of HTA Council/ HTA Division (collectively HTA Philippines) in 2022 – these must be the (a) development and release of the Social Values Guide on 13 December 2022; (b) the development and publication of the initial Philippine Essential Medical Device List on 23 November 2022, in collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Division’s Experts Advisory Committee; and, (c) the development and release of the Prioritization List for the General Health Technology Assessment on 07 November 2022.

The opening of nominations for the general HTA track and its attendant preparations including designing application forms, pretesting the forms, responding to queries, conducting tutorials and an online orientation, as it continued to assess COVID and non-COVID related technologies was an awesome feat and demonstrated the persistence and diligence of the HTA Division. The assessments generated nineteen (19) positive recommendations; six (6) negative recommendations; and, two (2) were deferred due to limited evidence. All of these 27 recommendations were adopted by the DOH. There was 77.78% compliance in timeliness.

The HTA Division must be commended for consistently supporting the HTA Council in all of its decision-making processes and recommendations by providing the necessary documentation and facilitating the meetings of the Subcommittees and the Core Committee. All these tasks did not deter the participation of the HTA Division in other activities like winning the championship in the 2022 Aliwan Festival during the 124th DOH Anniversary, and participation in the DOH Carol-oke Choir competition (winning 2nd place), inputs on important policy papers (e.g., Health Care Financing Policy Questions Concerning DOH, Topics for Clinical Practice Guidelines, Bill on Public health Emergencies and Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases Response Act, etc.) were frequently requested from the HTA Philippines and diligence was always exercised accordingly.

Members of the HTA Philippines were also invited as lecturers/ speakers on health technology assessment - a reflection of the growing public interest in what the process is all about and where people can make their participation felt.

Meanwhile, the transition from DOH to DOST affiliation occupied considerable attention. It meant consultative and coordinating sessions with key officials of the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Budget and Management – always supported by OIC-Undersecretary Charade Mercado-Grande and OIC-Secretary of Health Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire. By the end of 2022 – the official transfer to DOST was accepted and confirmed, in principle, but the schedules of the actual and the physical transfer have not been set.

Unfinished business includes whether the HTA prioritization process should be jointly undertaken by the HTA Council, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the definition of the role of the HTA Council in public health emergencies.

There are other worries like the fast turn-over of the HTA Division staff, the end of term of 7 out of 9 core members of the HTA Council and the consequent selection process of new members, and organizational challenges in the establishment of the HTA Research Network.

In September 2022, as Chair of the HTA Council, I was invited to make a presentation on “The Role of HTA in Rebuilding the Healthcare System Post-Pandemic” at the 2022 ISPOR Health Technology Assessment Roundtable-Asia Pacific. ISPOR is the leading professional society for health economics and outcomes research (HEOR) globally and its mission is to promote HEOR excellence to improve decision-making for health globally. Not having been a participant in any post-COVID planning at the Department of Health, I based my presentation on a set of slides of OIC DOH Secretary Vergeire on the “New Approach to the Health Care System” where mechanisms for intersectoral collaboration for health, more investments in health, the right care at the appropriate level, building management institutes for health, and caring for health workers as an investment will be put in place to improve health outcomes.

I noted that HTA (as a process) and its methodologies do have a role in each strategy. “Investing in health” naturally calls to mind the HTA process as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism in financing decisions. “Right care at the appropriate level”, in fact, is embedded in the HTA set of criteria. “Intersectoral Collaboration for Health” is practiced by the HTA Philippines. The HTA Philippines identified gaps in institutional coordination, data gathering, information systems, and stakeholder communication – all very useful information in “Building Management Institutes for Health”.

Finally, the HTA process highlights the importance of the expertise and experience of health workers – an important consideration in putting value to their contribution to health care and supporting the need to care for health workers as an investment! After presenting these reflections, I ended my presentation with the following commitment – that HTA Philippines shall continue to be a model in transparency, competency, inclusiveness, responsiveness, and consistency in adhering to ethical principles.

Indeed, HTA Philippines plays a significant role in building public trust in health governance.

Marita V. Tolentino-Reyes, MD
Chair, HTA Council Core Committee

INTRODUCTION TO HTA PHILIPPINES

Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act formalized 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).

The Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council) under this Act functions as an independent advisory body, guiding coverage and public funding for health interventions. It is composed of nine (9) Core Committee members and seven (7) Subcommittees. A screening committee composed of senior officials from the DOH, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) selected members of the HTA Council through a series of nominations.

THE HTA COUNCIL CORE COMMITTEE



The HTA Council Core Committee is composed of voting members from different fields of expertise. Together, they formulate final recommendations for policy- and decision-makers based on appraisals from different subcommittees. The health ethicist and medico-legal expert have four-year terms while the rest of the Core Committee members have three-year terms.

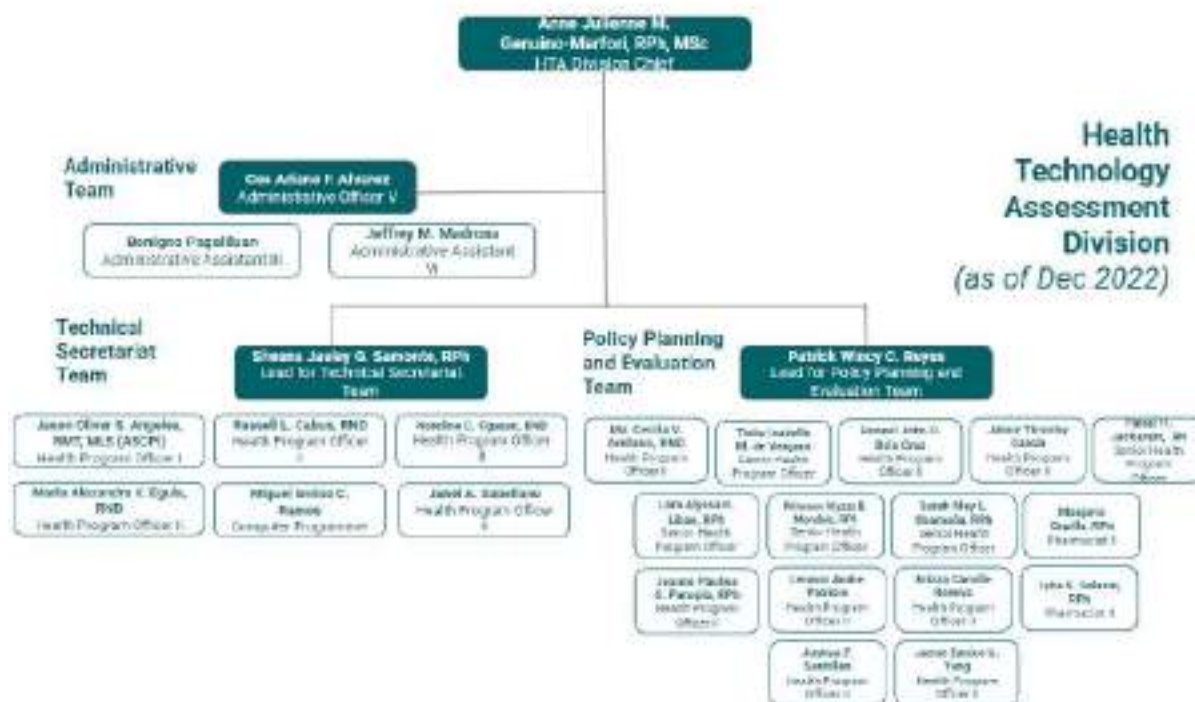
THE HTA COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES



The HTA Council Subcommittees perform initial review of HTA reports and submissions from all relevant stakeholders. They are constituted according to the type of health technology.

THE HTA DIVISION

The HTA Division is composed of the Administrative, Technical Secretariat, and Policy, Planning and Evaluation Units. HTA Division supports the HTA Council with governance, management, and operations.



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 GOALS

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

HTA AS GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT FINANCING

Section 34 of the UHC Act mandates that the HTA Council shall determine, as an independent recommending body to the DOH and PhilHealth, the range of entitlements for the government financing of health technologies.

Through the evidence review and appraisal process of HTA, DOH, and PhilHealth can be guided on what health technologies are recommended for coverage under PhilHealth Benefit Packages or financed through DOH public health programs, as well as drugs for listing in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF) which serves as the basis for public financing of drugs.

Hence, upon the establishment of the HTA process in 2019 under the HTA Council, the existing process of the PNF System in DOH became subsumed under the overarching HTA process. This led to the endorsement of pending PNF topics to the HTA Council.

Upon approval by the DOH Secretary of a positive HTA Council recommendation, the new drug or a new formulation of a currently PNF-listed drug shall be included in the Formulary which remains to be managed under the DOH Pharmaceutical Division. This year, there are efforts to establish a similar mechanism for medical devices through the Philippine Essential Medical Device List (PEMDL), which is also under the management of the DOH Pharmaceutical Division.

Depending on the policy questions and urgency to respond to public health concerns, there are different types of HTA process tracks being followed:

A. Major tracks

A1. General HTA Process Track

This track follows the traditional HTA Process which is applicable to health technologies that are not for public health emergencies. This process track is open to any stakeholder, such as DOH and PhilHealth, hospitals, medical and health professional societies, the academe, the industry, patient groups, civil society organizations, and community leaders

The general track covers the following categories of health technologies:

- Existing health technologies - refer to those which are currently covered by DOH or PhilHealth and are requested by the said government agencies for potential rationalization or optimization of current financing (RA 11223 Sec 41(g) Transitory Provision). Once this type of health technology is prioritized, it may directly go through economic evaluation depending on the policy question and research questions of the proponent as consulted from the stakeholders such as experts and program managers.
- New health technologies - refer to those that are not yet covered by DOH or PhilHealth (RA 11223 Sec 6 Service Coverage).

A2. Expedited HTA process Track

The HTA Council recognizes that it should respond effectively, efficiently, and in a timely manner to the decision needs of the DOH and PhilHealth, particularly in situations of public health emergency as defined under Section 4.30 of the Universal Health Care Act requiring an expedited process of evidence review to provide immediate guidance to public health authorities and health care providers on the use of a health intervention or technology.

Health technology can be considered to undergo an expedited process if it responds to the following public health emergency (PHE) situations: :

- Is caused by any of the following: (i) bioterrorism; (ii) appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin; (iii) a

natural disaster; (iv) a chemical attack or accidental release; (v) a nuclear attack or accident; or (vi) an attack or accidental release of radioactive materials; and,

- Poses a high probability of any of the following: (i) a large number of deaths in the affected population; (ii) a large number of serious injuries or long-term disabilities in the affected population; (iii) widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people in the affected population; (iv) international exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk to the health of citizens of other countries; or (v) trade and travel restriction.

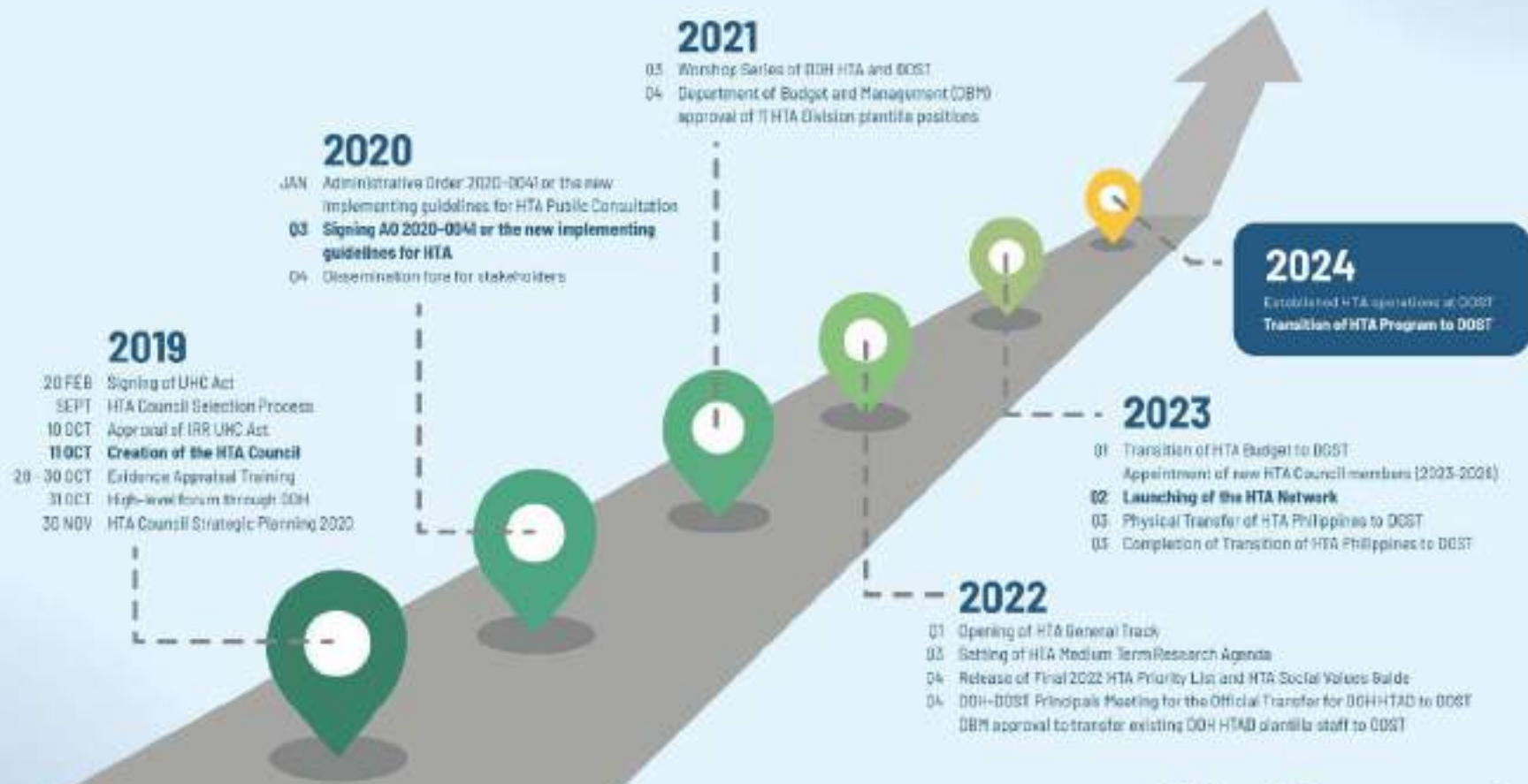
This track is open for DOH and PhilHealth who are essentially the lead agencies during PHE.

B. Minor track

The minor track refers to a process of reviewing drugs already listed in the PNF, but are being applied for inclusion in the PNF for additional dosage strength, net content, immediate packaging, pack size or volume, and any other change that will not result in significant difference in terms of bioavailability and meaningful clinical outcomes with the PNF-listed health technology.

These nominations may come from any stakeholder

Health Technology Assessment Roadmap



HTA IN THE PHILIPPINES: A ROADMAP

The HTA Roadmap highlights the key accomplishments achieved by the HTA Philippines from 2019 to 2022. The roadmap is modified annually based on changing priorities. The transfer of HTA operations from the DOH to the DOST is still in the process of completion this 2022, and it is notable that the HTA Philippines was able to operationalize the general HTA track.

HOW THE ANNUAL REPORT IS ORGANIZED

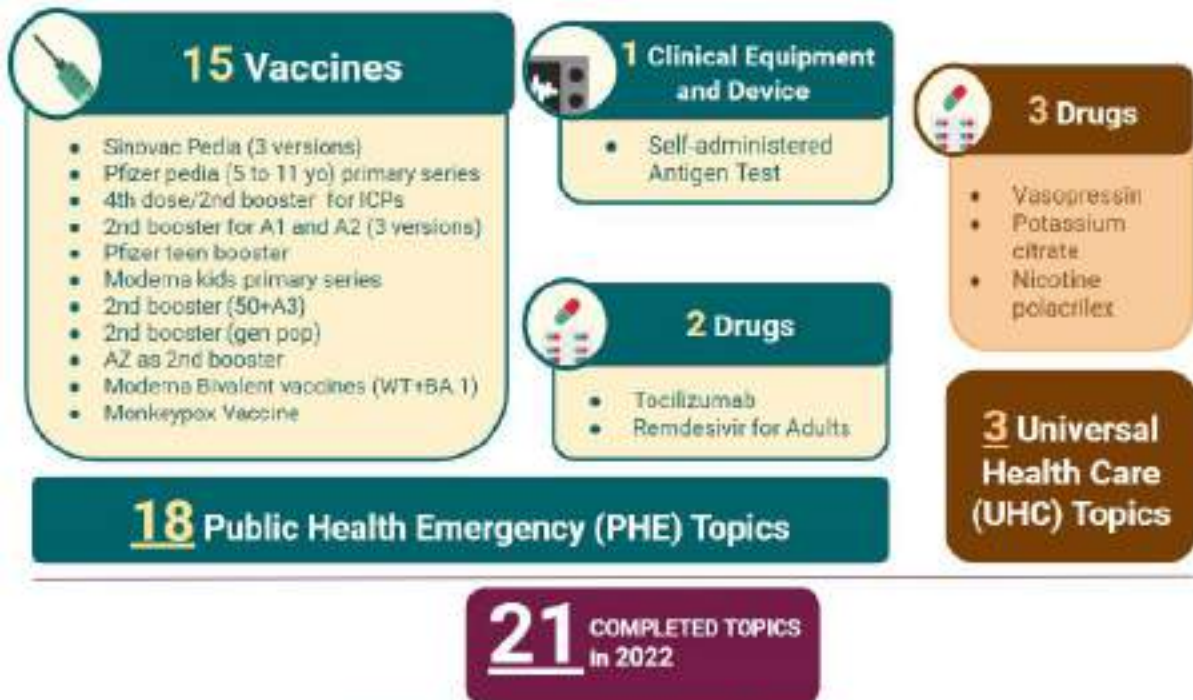
This fourth annual report (first version in 2019) presents updates on our milestones, mainly on the accomplished assessments and HTA Council recommendations; the policy guidance crafted for the information of our key stakeholder groups, challenges encountered, and a preview of our 2023 plans and goals. As the HTA Philippines maintains openness to stakeholder feedback, this annual report shall also serve as reference for our key stakeholders to monitor the progress of the HTA process as well as the efficiency of its review methodologies.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Technical products of the HTA Philippines



Evidence reviews to inform policy-making



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

Correspondence: Average of 50 emails, letters and referrals with stakeholder groups per day

2022 Accomplishments versus Targets

Indicator	TARGETS	ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT
Percent of timely and high quality evidence-based recommendations <i>(out of all priority topics submitted to HTA Division and HTA Council)</i>	80%	77.78% (21/27)

BREAKDOWN
<p>Expedited (COVID-19) topics: 90.00 % (18/20)</p> <p><i>Note: COVID-19 booster for the pediatric population - for HTA Council deliberation; Remdesivir for the pediatric population - awaiting data</i></p>
<p>Universal Health Care (UHC) topics:</p>

42.86% (3/7)

Comparative targets and accomplishments through the years

% Percent of timely and high-quality evidence-based recommendations (out of all priority topics submitted to the HTA Division and the HTA Council)			
Assessment topics	2022	2021	2020
1. Expedited (COVID-19)	90.00% (18/20)	100.00% (40/40)	100.00% (15/15)
2. Universal Health Care	42.86% (3/7)	100.00% (9/9)	100.00% (1/1)
2.1. Urgent (DOH and PhilHealth)	(0)	100.00% (4/4)	100.00% (1/1)
2.2. Minor Inclusion	42.86% (3/7)	100.00% (5/5)	(0)
OVERALL	77.78% (21/27)	100.00% (49/49)	100.00% (16/16)

ASSESSMENTS & REVIEWS

HTA Philippines recognizes the value of evidence-based decision-making in order to achieve UHC and address emerging public health emergencies (PHEs). For 2022, 18 COVID-19 topics were reviewed under the expedited HTA track while three UHC topics were reviewed. All three UHC topics were processed under the minor inclusion track, and there were no non-COVID-19 urgent requests from the DOH or PhilHealth..

As we transition to the new normal, the HTA Philippines was also able to accommodate and finish 10 TFEC topics.

The table below summarizes the number of topics completed in 2022. Details on these topics are further presented in *Annex B*.

	Public Health Emergency (PHE) Topics	Philippine National Formulary (PNF) topics	Minor Inclusion Topics
Number of Topics with Positive Recommendation	13 (2 Drugs, 10 Vaccines, 1 Clinical equipment, and device)	4	3
Number of Topics with Negative Recommendation	2 (2 Vaccines)	6	0
Number of Topics with recommendations	3 (3 Vaccines)	0	0

which cannot be released*			
Number of Topics Adopted by DOH and/or PhilHealth	16 <i>(2 Drugs, 15 vaccines, 1 Clinical equipment, and devices)</i>	10	3

**HTA topics with a “recommendation which cannot be released” are topics with complete assessments, but have legal barriers (e.g., lack of WHO recommendation) that serve as legal limitations in the release of HTA Council recommendations.*

TOPIC NOMINATION AND PRIORITIZATION ACTIVITIES

2022 HTA Topic Nomination process (04 April to 27 May 2022)

Topic nomination refers to the process of referring topics to the HTA Council for which technology appraisals may be produced and disseminated for the guidance of policy-makers in healthcare coverage decisions and to health providers and patients on the optimal and appropriate use of health technologies. In the past years, topic nominations came from the DOH, PhilHealth, or hospitals for health technologies under the expedited and minor inclusion tracks. The HTA Philippines had its pilot implementation of the general HTA track in 2022 which was opened to all stakeholders. The difference from the former PNF System is that the HTA Philippines also accepted topic nominations from the industry.

The 2022 HTA priority list based on the topic nominations was developed after a rigorous topic prioritization process that began with the call for topic nominations from April to May 2022. The HTA Division received 140 nominations from key stakeholder groups, including DOH national health programs, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, hospitals, medical societies, the industry, and patient groups; 88 complete submissions of which 86 were new and two were existing health technologies.

HTA Topic Prioritization Workshop (03-05 August 2022)

The HTA Council held its topic prioritization workshop which was aimed at selecting which nominated topics from the 2022 General Track - topic nomination process shall proceed to assessment and evidence appraisal, as shown in the HTA Process Guide (hta.doh.gov.ph/philippine-hta-process-guide/). This helps ensure that the topics selected and the appraisal process responds to the priority healthcare needs of the country and that the health technologies address conditions that are important to patients, healthcare providers, PhilHealth, DOH program managers, hospitals, and local health system administrators. This process involved the use of the HTA Council’s Prioritization Criteria (PC) tool (prescribed in the HTA Process Guide) for existing and new health technologies. The HTA Philippines collected data to satisfy the parameters in the PC tool. The HTA Division together with the HTA Council Subcommittee members scored the nominated health technologies using the Prioritization Criteria stipulated in the HTA Process Guide based on the submitted and scoped evidence for their respective indications. Some of the considerations in the final list of priorities were the ranking of scores and internal assessment capacity, apart from the points for deliberation following the appeals received during the public consultation.



The HTA Council and the HTA Division during the Topic Prioritization Workshop at Lohas Hotel, Pampanga

Release of the 2022 Topic Priority list for HTA

To facilitate the consolidation of the Preliminary List of Prioritized Topics for public consultation, the Topic Prioritization Workshop was held on 03-05 August 2022, after which the preliminary list of prioritized topics was released on 12 September 2022 for a two-week appeals period, including a Virtual Public Consultation with key stakeholders on 19 September 2022. After processing a total of 31 appeals, HTA Philippines finalized the priority list with 31 topics that would proceed to topic assessment. The final list of priority topics was issued on 07 November 2022 through the [Department Circular 2022-0580](#). The topics in the final priority list will undergo HTA based on the decision criteria in the UHC Law that will determine the listing of the technology in the PNF and/or its inclusion in the benefit package of the PhilHealth or possible DOH funding.

POLICY & GOVERNANCE

Below are all the issuances and guidance documents released by HTA Philippines in 2022. These are summarized in Annex A of this annual report.

Guidelines on the Application of Philippine Social Values on HTA

The HTA Council, supported by the HTA Division, developed the [Guidelines on the Application of Philippine Social Values on HTA](#) which was released on 13 December 2022. This Guide aims to highlight the significance of a set of core social values of the Filipinos, their perspectives, and insights, which are fundamental in the adoption, use, and diffusion of health technologies. Through this document, the goal of the HTA Council is to make its recommendations more responsive to the needs of stakeholders that will inform healthcare coverage or funding decisions that are fair and relevant to the Philippine context through the consideration of the different

Filipino social values across different types of health technologies at all stages of the HTA process. This Guide will enhance the relevance, acceptability, and legitimacy of healthcare decisions. The Guide is meant to be used by health providers, hospitals, healthcare organizations, national DOH program managers, health authorities from municipal, provincial, and city health governments, civil society organizations (i.e., patient advocacy groups/organizations) and the public, industries, and the academe or researchers.

Philippine Essential Medical Device List and Guidelines for Development

The Medical Device Unit (MDU) in collaboration with the HTA Philippines published the initial [Philippine Essential Medical Device List \(PEMDL\)](#) on 23 November 2022. The initial list shall serve as guidance for all public health facilities to efficiently source quality and affordable medical devices and supplies in the public sector through the Medical Devices and Supplies Price Reference Index (MDSPRI). It is also a prerequisite document in setting the corresponding price reference index for procurement purposes that will be produced by the MDU in 2023 to reduce the variations in the prices of medical devices in the public sector. Its implementation is guided by the [Department Memorandum 2022-0545](#) or the “Interim Guidelines on the Process and Methods for the Selection of Medical Devices for Inclusion in the PEMDL.”

HTA section in the UHC Module training

The Department of Health launched a book, *Universal Health Care in the Philippines: From Policy to Practice* which serves as a valuable reference for health managers, healthcare implementers, and other stakeholders in attaining UHC. One of its chapters is on *Regulating Health Goods and Services* where a section on HTA was authored by Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero, Ms. Anne Julienne Marfori, and Ms. Sheena Jasley Samonte of the HTA Division.

The electronic copy of the UHC compendium can be accessed via this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xv-lpRCF7bhYe1MBmPPnFWBn0lgBLHLY>

HTA Division Citizen’s Charter

As part of stakeholder engagement, the HTA Division has also been working on its Citizen’s Charter to supplement stakeholder-centered processes of HTA, aside from what is stated in the HTA Process Guide. The HTA Division has an ongoing consultation with the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) in ensuring that the contents of the Citizen’s Charter are responsive to the needs of the general public given that HTA is a highly technical multi-stage process. To date, the submitted Citizen’s Charter is for review and approval of the ARTA, and the HTA Division will make the document public as soon as it is approved for dissemination.

Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP)

To ensure the continuity of these services and mandates of the HTA Council and HTA Division even in the face of unprecedented events, a PSCP was developed. It aims to provide the procedure and protocol that must be undertaken by the HTA Division staff in response to an emergency. It includes necessary measures to ensure the continuity of operations through the restoration of mission-essential functions, processes, and procedures when normal operations are not viable. Likewise, this plan is expected to facilitate the effective implementation of recovery strategies and pave the way to a speedy return to normalcy.

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

- Overall Cancer Strategy Access to Medicine
- Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccines
- COVID-19 Antigen Testing Guidelines of DOH

LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENTS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **ASEAN Regional Cooperation on the Harmonization of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Reporting Formats on Clinical Efficacy, Effectiveness of Health Interventions and Technologies**

The HTA Division is currently involved in a project titled “ASEAN Regional Cooperation on the Harmonization of HTA Reporting Formats on Clinical Efficacy and Effectiveness of Health Interventions and Technologies” which will build and expand on the ASEAN Health Cluster 3 Work Programme for 2021-2025. It is intended to result in more timely health technology assessments that efficiently utilizes global knowledge on clinical evidence, leading to information becoming available faster to national health authorities who make decisions on provision or reimbursement. More timely and informed decision-making contributes directly to health SDG3, in particular to SDG 3.8 on Universal Health Coverage. The initial work could focus on harmonizing the HTA reporting formats on clinical efficacy and effectiveness, thereby reducing duplication of effort and freeing up more time for other member states to focus on the more context-specific components of a health technology assessment. This will involve having a consensus among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) on the review methods and common checklists and practical tools to be used for joint assessments. Finally, this project will also include discussions on the platform that the AMS can use for sharing HTA reports which will allow other countries to have access to completed HTAs for their own priority assessments.

- Partner Organizations and Respective Roles:
 - ASEAN as the main facilitator and secretariat of the project
 - Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section (MAHTAS) as the co-lead of the project
 - World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP) Thailand as technical assistance providers
- Objectives of the Project:
 - Develop harmonized reporting formats on clinical efficacy and effectiveness as a reference to inform policy making in healthcare;
 - Develop common checklists and other practical tools including generic disease impact models, appraisal tools, and evidence adoption and adaptation tools;
 - Develop common review methods and other technical arrangement (e.g., product criteria, mechanism for submitting product, data/information confidentiality, frequency and timeline, financing) for the joint assessments;
 - Develop joint HTA reports on clinical evidence for efficacy and effectiveness on two health technology tracks [one on pharmaceuticals (drugs and vaccines) and one on medical devices] utilizing the proposed common review method and reporting format; and
 - Develop a website/platform to share all outputs from the sub-activities.

- Expected outputs of the project:
 - Harmonized reporting formats on clinical efficacy and effectiveness as a reference to inform policy-making in healthcare;
 - Common checklists and other practical tools including generic disease impact models, appraisal tools, and evidence adoption and adaptation tools;
 - Common review methods and another technical arrangement (e.g. product criteria, a mechanism for submitting product, data/information confidentiality, frequency, and timeline, financing) for the joint assessments;
 - Joint HTA reports on clinical evidence for efficacy and effectiveness on two health technology tracks [one on pharmaceuticals (drugs and vaccines) and one on medical devices] utilizing the proposed common review method and reporting format; and
 - Website/platform to share all outputs from the sub-activities.

- **Development of the HTA Costing Library**

The metaHealth, through technical assistance from the WHO to the HTA Division, has been commissioned to implement this project that aims to create a roadmap for developing a standardized hospital cost library for use in health economic evaluations in the Philippines:

- Objectives of the project
 - To develop a roadmap for developing a standardized hospital cost library for use in health economic evaluations in the Philippines
 - To develop criteria for selecting efficient hospitals for the HTA Division's costing purposes
 - To establish guidelines for using PhilHealth costing data for costing purposes in the context of health technology assessment by HTA Division.
- Expected outputs of the project:
 - Strategy Roadmap for HTA Costing Manual of Procedures (MOP)
 - Desk review of criteria for selecting efficient hospitals, particularly among LMICs
 - Assessment of data quality and data gaps and recommendation to address data limitations
 - Validated criteria for selecting efficient hospitals in the Philippines, based on routinely collected data by PhilHealth
 - Guidelines on how PhilHealth costing data can be used by HTA Division for costing purposes in the context of health technology assessment

- **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Knowledge Exchange Sessions**

- The United Kingdom (UK) NICE is one of the leading HTA bodies of the international community. With its guidance and established protocols, other emerging HTA bodies usually pattern their processes after that of NICE and are engaged with HTA Philippines in multiple knowledge exchange series with the aim to increase the capacity of the HTA Philippines to conduct HTA. *More details on UK-NICE engagements will be seen in the following sections on international engagements.*

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Part of the assessment process and recommendation-building is to capture the inputs and perspectives of stakeholders relevant to health technology. This year, several FGDs were conducted for the following topics:

- **Self-administered antigen test (SAAgT)**
 - In the assessment of SAAgT, the HTA Council gathered stakeholder insights for the ethical, legal, social, and health systems impact assessment of the use of the said health technology through the following guide questions:
 - What are the knowledge and perceptions of using self-administered antigen tests (SAAgT) among Filipinos?
 - What is the level of acceptability in using SAAgT among Filipinos?
 - What is the capability and willingness for self-reporting of SAAgT results among Filipinos?

- **Rituximab SC**
 - The HTA Philippines conducted a focus group discussion with relevant stakeholders on the potential inclusion of the Rituximab for Non-hodgkin's Lymphoma delivered subcutaneously.

The goal of this discussion was to understand the perception and preference of patient groups, healthcare professionals, and program implementers on the use of Rituximab SC versus Rituximab IV for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The FGD mainly revolved around the following:

- Experiences with rituximab SC and IV or other cancer drugs with SC or IV formulation
- Advantages and disadvantages of rituximab SC versus rituximab IV
- Preference of stakeholders before and after the presentation of the costing analysis



HTA Philippines with FGD participants and Experts

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

- **UK NICE International Knowledge Exchange on Guideline Development [18-19 October 2022]**
 - Representatives of the Health Technology Assessment Division (HTA Division) headed by Director Anna Melissa Guerrero attended the knowledge exchange session with the United Kingdom's National Health Service Consortium for Global Health (NHSC) - represented by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) on 18-19 October 2022 held in The Peninsula Hotel, Makati City.



Representatives of the HTA Division, DPCB, BIHC, UPM-NIH, PhilHealth with representatives of the UK NICE Mr. Hugh McGuire, Senior Scientific Advisor of NICE International, and Dr. Judith Richardson, Director of Health and Social Care during the Knowledge Exchange Session on Guideline Development at the Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City

- **HTA Knowledge Exchange with South Africa and the UK [3 November 2022]**
 - South Africa, the Philippines, and the UK have a shared interest in using health technology assessment to inform decision-making in health. South Africa and the Philippines have commonalities in their health system contexts and development trajectory that lend themselves to fruitful mutual sharing on the topic of HTA. For example, both have decentralized health financing and delivery structures and both have made substantial recent progress during their respective journeys to institutionalizing HTA as part of ongoing national health insurance and UHC reforms.

- **UK-NICE Knowledge Exchange on Evidence-Based Policy Development and Regulatory Standards for Health Technologies [30 November - 02 December 2022]**
 - The study visit featured learning sessions and side meetings with the NHS Consortium for Global Health, as a continuation of a broader, on-going knowledge exchange between the UK and the Philippines on Health Systems Development; Health Technology Assessment and Clinical Practice Guideline Development; and standards improvement for disease Surveillance.



- *HTA Division Chief with UK-NICE during the 30 November - 02 December 2022 UK-NICE Knowledge Exchange on Evidence-Based Policy Development and Regulatory Standards for Health Technologies*

LOCAL ENGAGEMENTS

- **DOH All Experts Convening from COVID-19 to United Health Care (UHC) [29 April 2022]**
 - The DOH All Experts Convening was held last 29 April 2022 at the Conrad Hotel, Manila. The Thanksgiving event recognized all the expert groups and scientific experts, including the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council) that helped the DOH in its COVID-19 response. The HTA Division staff also attended to give support to the HTA Council.



- **TVUP Webinar- To Boost or Not To Booster: The Science and Process Behind the HTA Council Recommendations [08 July 2022]**
 - Through the webinar titled “To Boost or Not to Boost: The Science and Process Behind the HTA Council Recommendations”, the HTA Philippines was able to explain the basics of COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, as well as the more detailed science and considerations behind the recommendations of the HTA Council. This also included updates on the coverage, best practices, and challenges encountered by the Department of Health in the current vaccine implementation.

The HTA Council was represented by Dr. Marita V. Toletino-Reyes (HTA Council Chair), and Dr. Limuel Anthony B. Abrogena (Chair of the Subcommittee on Preventive and Promotive Health) along with Dr. Anna Melissa S. Guerrero (Director of the HTA Division).



- **HTA Council INTERVIEW WITH RAPPLER - Response to the wastage of COVID-19 vaccines [30 November 2022]**

- Chairperson and Ethics Practitioner Dr. Marita V. Tolentino-Reyes of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council) had an interview with Rappler host Mr. Bonz Magsambol on 30 November 2022 (Wednesday) to respond to questions on the role of HTA Council and give clarifications on the allegations of wastage of COVID-19 vaccines.



- **HTA Council INTERVIEW WITH DZRH - Response to the allegations of wastage of COVID-19 vaccines [29 November 2022]**
 - Chairperson and Ethics Practitioner Dr. Marita V. Tolentino-Reyes of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council) had an interview with the DZRH host Mr. Angelo Palmones on 29 November 2022 (Tuesday) to respond to questions on the role of HTA Council and give clarifications on the allegations of wastage of COVID-19 vaccines.



MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED AND ATTENDED BY HTA PHILIPPINES

MEETINGS

A. Hosted by HTA Division

➤ Internal

- HTA Council Meetings (22)
- Subcommittee [SC] Meetings (29)
 - SC-level Consensus Scoring of Nominated Topics under 2022 General HTA Track (14)
 - SC on Drugs (5)
 - [On-hold pending release of CPR] Inclusion of Molnupiravir in the PNF
 - Concerns of the Pharmaceutical Division on the PNF listing
 - Presentation to the Pinoy Plus Advocacy Project participants on the HIV drugs recommended by HTA Council
 - Minor Inclusion of Potassium Citrate in the PNF
 - Inclusion of Zoledronic Acid in the PNF
 - Inclusion of Remdesivir for adult population in the PNF
 - Minor Inclusion of Deferasirox in the PNF
 - SC on Clinical Equipment and Devices [CED] (2)
 - Philippine Essential Medical Device List (PEMDL)
 - Guidelines on the PEMDL
 - SC on Medical and Surgical Procedures [MSP] (4)
 - Ongoing Assessment of Ivabradine for inclusion in the PNF
 - Ongoing Assessment of Direct Oral Anticoagulants in the PNF (3)
 - SC on Other Health Technologies [OHTs] (4)
 - Ongoing Assessment of Intravitreal Injections for inclusion in the PNF
 - Ongoing Assessment of Dapagliflozin for inclusion in the PNF (3)
 - SC on Traditional Medicine (1)
 - Inclusion of Insulin glargine in the PNF
 - Non-inclusion of Insulin detemir in the PNF
- Joint SC Meetings (24)
 - Vaccines and Preventive and Promotive Health [PPH] (20)
 - COVID-19 Modelling Scenarios
 - COVID-19 Vaccines
 - *CoronaVac* COVID-19 Vaccination for the Pediatric (6-17) Population (4)
 - Pediatric (5-11 years old) Vaccination
 - 4th Dose of Immunocompromised Patients
 - 2nd Booster for Healthcare Workers and Elderly Population (4)
 - Boosters for the Adolescent Population
 - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines as Primary Series for Pediatric Population (6-11 years old) (2)

- 2nd Booster of COVID-19 Vaccines in Healthy Population (18-49 years old)
 - Booster for Pediatric (5-11 years old) Population
 - Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines
 - TVUP: University of the Philippines' Internet Television Network (TVUP) Webinar on 4th Dose/2nd Booster of COVID-19 Vaccines
 - Monkeypox Vaccine (2)
 - CED and OHTs (4)
 - Self-Administered Antigen Test
 - Transitory Formulary Executive Council [TFEC] (6)
 - Inclusion of Abiraterone acetate in the PNF
 - Non-inclusion of Enzalutamide in the PNF
 - Pertuzumab Re-assessment following the Appeals Period
 - Technical Working Group Meetings (4)
 - Alignment Meeting on Stakeholder Engagement Framework and HTA Process-related Issues
 - Alignment Meeting on the 2022 General HTA Track Opening
 - Alignment Meeting on HTA Process' Issues
 - Processing of Appeals on the HTA Social ValuesGuide Document
 - Workshops (3)
 - HTA Social Values Workshop
 - 2022 HTA Topic Prioritization Workshop
 - 2023 Stocktaking and Operational Plan Workshop
- **External**
- Alignment Meeting with DPCB, PhilHealth and PITAHC on the Preliminary List of 2022 Priority Topics
 - Alignment Meeting with Usec. Vergeire on *CoronaVac* COVID-19 Vaccination for the Pediatric (6-17) Population
 - Alignment Meeting with PhilHealth on the Financing of Pending TFEC Topics
 - Joint Administrative Order (AO)-Process Guide (PG)-Methods (MG) Task Force Meeting on the HTA Process Proposals of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau [DPCB], and Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Association of the Philippines [PHAP]
 - Planning of Topic Prioritization Workshop
 - Meeting with PhilHealth on their nominated topics
 - HTA Division Meeting with National Patient Navigation and Referral Center (One Hospital Command Center) and Philippine College of Emergency Medicine (PCEM) Office for data collection relevant to the Topic Prioritization
 - Alignment Meeting of HTA Council and Pharmaceutical Division on PNF Listing Concerns
 - Focus Group Discussions
 - Rituximab SC
 - Self-Administered Antigen Test
 - Meetings with Department of Science and Technology [DOST] (9)
 - HTA Philippines Transition and Budget Proposal for 2023 (7)
 - HTA Network Subcontracting Concerns
 - DOH and DOST Principals for HTA Division Transfer to DOST

B. Organized by DOH

- HTA Process and Methods

- Alignment Meeting for the Integration of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and National Practice Guidelines Program (NPGP) Processes
- Alignment Meeting on Streamlining of Financing Schemes of Essential Health Products and Services (2)
- HTA Council, HTA Division, Expert Advisory Committee [EAC] and Medical Device Unit [MDU] Meetings on PEMDL (5)
- COVID-19 Health Technologies
 - Alignment Meeting on the Assessment of Self-Administered Antigen Test Kits
 - Updates on the Price Cap of Antigen and RT-PCR Testing
 - Implementation of Executive Order (EO) No. 118 or the Price Cap of COVID-19 Test Kits [Department of Health and Department of Trade and Industry Joint Administrative Order 2020-0001]
 - Data Drop Briefing of Epidemiology Bureau
 - Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines
- Technical Group on Vaccine Evaluation and Selection (TG VES) (3)
- All Expert Group [AEG] Meeting
- National Integrated Cancer Control Council (NICCC) Meetings on Cancer Assistance Fund (3)
- Meeting with UP-National Health Institutes (NIH) on Integrated Rare Disease Management Program
- Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service (KMITS) Orientation on Nationwide Data Mapping
- Webinars
 - Resbakuna Kids: Orientation on COVID-19 pediatric vaccination for children aged 5-11 years old featuring Bakunanays
 - End-user Consultative Meeting on DOH Cybersecurity Framework
- Workshops
 - Basic Life Support
 - Immunizing Pharmacists
 - Public Service Continuity Plan
 - PEMDL
 - UK NICE Knowledge Exchange Sessions
 - ISO 9001:2015 Orientation and Awareness

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

- Preliminary Meeting for the Senate Committee on Health Budget Hearing
- House of Reps Budget Briefing
- Sponsor's Budget Briefing with O/S Pia Cayetano
- Public Hearing to Compassionate Access to Medical Cannabis (Senate Bill No. 230)
- Senate Hearing for 2023 Budget
- Senate Hearing on COVID-19 Vaccines

D. Requested by Other Stakeholders

- Alignment Meeting of HTA Council, HTA Division, DOST and HPDPB on the Termination and Moving Forward Plans of the Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) Project
- HITAP and National University of Singapore (5)
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Modelling Weekly Meeting (3)

- Transmission Modelling
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Modelling
- Alignment Meeting for the Costing Library (4)
- Meeting with Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) on Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) Procurement Concerns
- Rapid Review of COVID-19 Mobile Health Technologies in the Workplace
- Ateneo de Manila University School of Medicine and Public Health Center for Research and Innovation (ASMPH ACRI) Exploratory Meeting on the HTA Research Network and 2022 HTA Research Agenda
- PhilHealth
 - HTA Orientation of the PhilHealth Board of Directors
 - Discussions on Corporate Order on Benefit Development Protocol of PhilHealth
 - Philippine Oral Health Intervention Package
- FDA Meeting for EUA holders
- ARTA Meetings
 - Training with ARTA
 - ARTA Health Summit: Streamlining and Digitalization of Government Processes in the Health Sector During and Beyond the Pandemic
 - 4th Checkpoint Meeting for the Implementation of the JMC re Green Lane for COVID-19 Vaccine Manufacturers
- ASEAN and Cuba on Cooperation for the Control of COVID-19
- Presentation of Sinovac Biotech on CoronaVac
- UK-bound Study Visit on “Evidence-based Policy Development and Regulatory Standards”

Workshops

HTA Division and HTA Council Stocktaking and Operational Planning for 2023 Workshop (07-09 December 2022)

In preparation for the 2023 implementation of HTA, this workshop was held to discuss the best practices, gaps, challenges, and lessons learned in the 2022 HTA Philippines work streams, and moving forward plans for 2023 operational plans. Specifically, the workshop is aimed at discussing the 2022 Program Implementation Review of the HTA Division; presenting the currently approved HTA Division 2023 budget and the submitted budget appeal; and developing the 2023 HTA Operational Plan.

The 2023 Operational Plan covered the following workstreams: (a) HTA Governance: Process and Methods, (b) assessments, (c) 2023 general track opening, (d) DOST HTA matters, (e) ASEAN HTA Harmonization, (f) Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP), and (g) 2022 HTA Philippines Accomplishment Report (AR). In preparation for the transition of HTA implementation, the 2023 plans were shared with the DOST.



The HTA Council with the HTA Division during the Stocktaking and Operational Planning Workshop for 2023 at Hotel Seoul, Pampanga

Workshop on Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) for the HTA Division (25 November 2022)

In response to the DOH-HEMB Training on Public Service Continuity Planning, a workshop convened the HTA Division to craft the PSCP, a document that details the plans and programs that the division must undertake to ensure the continuity of public service.



The HTA Division during the Workshop on Public Service Continuity Plan at Oracle Hotel and Residences, Quezon City

DOH 19th National Health Research Forum for Action (NHRFA) Kick Off Event (20 October 2022)

Representatives of the DOH HTA Division together with the HTA Council members, Subcommittee (SC) on Preventive and Promotive Health Chairperson Dr. Limuel Anthony Abrogena, SC on Clinical Equipment and Devices Chairperson Prof. Agnette Peralta, and SC on Medical and Surgical Procedures Chairperson Dr. Maria Minerva Calimag, attended the DOH 19th National Health Research Forum for Action (NHRFA) Kick Off Event hosted by the DOH - Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau (HPDBP) held at Novotel, Araneta City, Quezon City.

The event served as a platform for evidence and knowledge dissemination and policy translation in support of Universal Health Care (UHC). During this activity, international experts shared their country's experiences in translating rapidly evolving COVID-19 evidence in policy making and how countries can collaborate in evidence-based decision making. Meanwhile, the DOH shared its Medium Term Health Research Agenda for 2022-2023 and the Expanded National Practice Guidelines Program Framework.



Representatives of the HTA Division, HTA Council members, and representatives of UK NICE, Mr. Hugh McGuire, Senior Scientific Advisor of NICE International, and Dr. Judith Richardson, Director of Health and Social Care during the DOH 19th National Health Research Forum for Action (NHRFA) Kick Off Event at Novotel Hotel, Quezon City

Follow-up Workshop with the EAC and HTA Council on the Endorsement of the

1st edition of PEMDL and Inclusion of Orthopedic Implants (07 September 2022)

Representatives from the Philippine Orthopedic Center presented a list of orthopedic implants along with their adjunct tools and instruments, which are proposed to be included in the PEMDL. Following the previous workshop, the HTA Council and EAC convened regarding the timeline for the release of the PEMDL and the issuance of the DM on the methodology for the initial PEMDL among other concerns such as the clearing of clinical practice guidelines to be adopted for the standard of care and needs assessment for new and innovative medical devices. The experts agreed to set a coordination system with DPCB in streamlining the process and decentralizing the system on the clearance of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs).



The HTA Subcommittee on Clinical Equipment and Devices, Expert Advisory Committee, HTA Division, and Medical Device Unit together with the representatives of the Philippine Orthopedic Center at Hive Hotel, Quezon City

Workshop on the Risk Level Classification of Medical Devices and Supplies and Alignment of Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council) and

Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) in the Creation of the Philippines Essential Medical Device List (PEMDL) (23-26 August 2022)

To ensure comprehensive discussion on the risk level classification of medical devices as well as the final agreements between HTA Council and EAC in the creation of PEMDL, a workshop was jointly conducted by the DOH Pharmaceutical Division - Medical Device Unit (DOH PD-MDU) and the HTA Division in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other relevant stakeholders.



The HTA Subcommittee on Clinical Equipment and Devices, Expert Advisory Committee, HTA Division, and Medical Device Unit together with representatives of the FDA, DPCB, and PhilHealth during the Workshop on the Risk Level Classification of Medical Devices and Supplies and Alignment of the HTA Council and EAC in the Creation of the PEMDL at Summit Ridge Hotel, Tagaytay

Workshop on the Crafting of Citizen's Charter (25-26 August 2022)

The Citizen's Charter is an official document aimed at helping key stakeholders understand the service provided by the government to its citizens along with its timelines and point persons. In this workshop, the DOH personnel were oriented on the prescribed manner of writing and developing the Citizen's Charter of the process owners and stakeholders for the process of payment to suppliers.



Representatives of the HTA Division attended the Workshop on the Crafting of Citizen's Charter on the End-to-End Process of Payment to Suppliers per Process Owners and Stakeholders held in Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital – Duque Hall, Manila.

Consultation Workshop for the Next Administration's UHC Strategic Policy Framework and Plan (June 13-14,2022)

Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero, Director IV and Ms. Anne Julienne Genuino-Marfori, Chief of the Health Technology Assessment Division (HTA Division) attended the Consultation Workshop for the Next Administration's UHC Strategic Policy Framework and Plan on 13-14 June 2022 held in Park Inn, Pampanga. The consultation workshop aimed to update the UHC Strategic Policy Framework and Plan of the next Administration through consultations with health partners.



Representatives of DOH Offices during the Consultation Workshop for the Next Administration's UHC Strategic Policy Framework and Plan at Park Inn, Pampanga

Workshop on the Guidelines on the Application of Philippine Social Values on Health Technology Assessment (May 04-05, 2022)

This workshop developed a guide that will explicitly present what relevant Filipino social values should be considered in the conduct of assessments and in the development of financing recommendations by the HTA Council. The formulation of the Philippine HTA Social Values Guide, was mainly drawn from the findings of the “*Defining the Social Values Relevant to the Philippines in Informing Coverage Decisions*”, existing studies, and HTA experience.



The HTA Council and the HTA Division during the Workshop on the Guidelines on the Application of Philippine Social Values on HTA at Hertz Hotel, Tagaytay.

Hybrid Workshop on the Development of Guidelines in the Creation of the Philippine Essential Medical Device List (PEMDL) (April 22, 2022)

The Administrative Order 2021-0038 or the “Framework of the Philippine Essential Medical Devices List and Price Reference Index” aimed to establish a standard system and method for creating and maintaining a database of essential medical devices, set the price reference index for medical devices and the recommended prices for all DOH health facilities, and provide guidelines on the enforcement, implementation, and monitoring of the price reference index system across DOH End-user units. Alignment and streamlining of roles among the MDU Expert Advisory Committee (EAC), Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) were necessary to align expectations and priorities on medical devices in pursuit of accessible and quality medical devices towards universal health care.



The HTA Council, Expert Advisory Committee, HTA Division, and Medical Device Unit during the Hybrid Workshop on the Development of Guidelines in the Creation of the Philippine Essential Medical Device List at Hive Hotel, Quezon City

International Conferences

- **2022 CoRE Scientific Conference - Patients as Partners for Health: Co-creating Equitable Access to Health Products and Services [4-6 October 2022]**
 - Dr. Annabelle Borromeo, Citizen's Representative and Vice Chair of the HTA Council and Dr. Limuel Abrogena, Chairperson of the HTA Council Subcommittee on Preventive and Promotive Health attended the 2022 CoRE Scientific Conference entitled Patients as Partners for Health: Co-creating Equitable Access to Health Products and Services held in Singapore last 05 to 06 October 2022. Dr. Borromeo was one of the speakers with her presentation titled "Co-creating Equitable Access to Health Products and Services: Patient Involvement in HTA Philippines." Trends, global practices, and addressing key challenges in areas of patient engagement for health products, access equity, and sustainable health systems were discussed in the conference.



- **HTAi 2022 Asia Policy Forum [2-4 November 2022]**

- The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Division represented by Ms. Sheena Jasley Samonte, Head of the Technical Secretariat Unit and Mr. Patrick Wincy Reyes, Head of the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Unit, attended the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 2022 Asia Policy Forum with the theme “HTA Capacity Building in Asia: Towards One Goal” on 02-04 November 2022 held in Singapore.

The event was aimed at having representatives from the industry and health technology agencies in Asia discuss mutual problems and issues on HTA capacity building, and for HTA agencies to present locally available HTA courses, specify the gaps and challenges, and identify areas for collaboration.



Photo by Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi)



Training

DOH Quality Management System (QMS) Internal Quality Audit Training (May 30-June 01, 2022)

On 30 May to 01 June 2022, staff from the HTA Division participated in the DOH-Quality Management System (QMS) Internal Quality Audit Training. This training was held to ensure DOH Auditors' alignment on the audit strategy by providing new Internal Quality Audit (IQA) members with an orientation on the processes and audit tool.



DOH Training for Public Service Continuity Planning (May 23-May 28, 2022)

Members from the HTA Division participated in a training-workshop spearheaded by the DOH Health Emergency Management Bureau. PSCP consists of the internal capacities, recovery requirements and strategies of an agency or institution that leans toward the continuous delivery of quality public services during an emergency and disaster. The training aimed to ensure the continuity of operations and prevent disruption of essential functions, especially those that entail protecting the people, properties and the environment.



Basic Life Support Training (September 05-06, 2022)

Registered Pharmacists of the Health Technology Assessment Division (HTA Division) attended the Basic Life Support (BLS) Training on 05-06 September 2022 held in San Lazaro Hospital Amphitheater. During the training, participants were oriented on how to demonstrate and perform basic life support.

**Gender Focal Training** (September 07, 2022)

As part of the efforts of the DOH towards gender and development (GAD), the HTA Division sent its Gender Focal Person to undergo training on GAD and its role in universal healthcare, spearheaded by the DOH Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau.

Immunizing Pharmacist Certification Program for Public Health Pharmacists
(October 10-14, 2022)

Pharmacists from the HTA Division attended this certification program to strengthen their roles toward primary healthcare, to expand their roles as pharmacists, and to contribute in bridging the gap on the lack of vaccinators in the country.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION RECEIVED BY THE HTA PHILIPPINES

- **DOH All Experts Convening from COVID-19 to United Health Care (UHC) 2022**

The DOH All Experts Convening was held on 29 April 2022 at the Conrad Hotel, Manila. The Thanksgiving event recognized all the expert groups and scientific experts, including the HTA Council that helped the DOH in its COVID-19 response. The HTA Council, through one of its Core Committee members, Dr. Cecile Maramba-Lazarte (Clinical Trial/Research Methods Expert) delivered its message on behalf of HTA Council Chairperson Dr. Marita Reyes.

An excerpt reads: “The above experience [being part of the All Experts Group (AEG)] is iconic. HTA Council continues to ask itself what it is doing that justifies its existence and participation in AEG meetings helped us answer the difficult questions. There were uneasy moments like when we had to defend our decisions which may not be the expectations of other groups and these, again, were learning opportunities that a young council – born in October 2019, and who received a baptism of fire by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past 2 years, need.”

The HTA Division staff also attended to give support to the HTA Council.



- **Presidential Recognition of the Health Technology Assessment Council**

On 16 June 2022, the HTA Council, supported by staff from the HTA Division, was officially recognized by former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for its important role and contribution in the assessment of health technologies, in assisting in the country’s implementation of COVID-19 strategies, in ensuring that proper healthcare is received by all Filipinos, and in helping alleviate the negative long-term effects of the ongoing global crisis.



- **Interagency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) Awarding**

The HTA Council was recognized by the IATF at the ‘Pasasalamat’ event for key experts and expert groups who have significantly helped in the national COVID-19 response held on 27 June 2022 at the Grand Ballroom, Diamond Hotel, Manila. During the event, Dr. Cecile Maramba-Lazarte (Clinical Trial/Research Methods Expert, HTA Council Core Committee) delivered her speech:

“I am honored to have been designated as spokesperson of the Health Technology Assessment Council during this momentous ‘Pasasalamat’ event of the IATF. Yet, somehow I feel inadequate about whether I can truly put together the collective thoughts of the entire HTA Council but allow me to make an attempt.

For those not familiar with the work of HTA Council - let me explain that HTA Council along with its support staff, the HTA Division was created in 2019 through the Universal Health Care Act, the HTA Council has been ensuring adherence to its set standards and process principles to produce timely and evidence-based health technology assessments while continuing to improve its engagement with all stakeholders. The HTA Council evaluation framework is based on the following criteria: (1) responsiveness to magnitude and severity, (2) clinical efficacy, effectiveness and safety, (3) affordability, viability, and feasibility, (4) household financial impact, (5) social impact and (6) responsiveness to equity.

Additionally, HTA Council evaluates the relevant ethical, legal, social, and health system implications of the health technology which entail additional study methodologies including case studies, field surveys, key informant interviews, focused group discussions, policy and legal analysis among others. HTA Council also determines the cost-effectiveness which should preferably be conducted from a publicly-funded healthcare payer perspective, i.e., taking into account all costs and outcomes related to the health care system, best summarized through Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) and Cost-effectiveness acceptability curves (CEAC) for Budget impact.

The HTA process was immediately put to the test during the COVID-19 pandemic in parallel with the crafting of the implementing guidelines for HTA in the Philippines due to the need to

assess many COVID-19 related health technologies, such as vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics which have been issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) by the FDA.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the crucial role of evidence-driven public health decisions during a public health emergency. The challenges which were faced by HTA Council during the course of the pandemic were not only methodological in nature, but also structural and operational. We had to deal with difficulties in producing rapid and high-quality evidence for the IATF and other decision makers especially when faced with weak, incomplete and imperfect evidence. We adopted rapid review methods and accelerated editorial processes for an agile pandemic response. We found that Global and local collaborations on rapid and living evidence synthesis has been helpful but also need to consider specific country situation, capacity gaps and needs

We also collaborated with different actors in the system, not only the DOH, and the IATF and the All Experts Group, but also the patients and the public for evidence to be acceptable, trustworthy and responsive.

The HTA Council, being composed of the Core Committee and seven Subcommittees with 30 expert members all in all, could have been expected to be unwieldy and somehow difficult to manage given the wide variety of perspectives in the Council.. But thanks to our Chair, Dr Marita Reyes, all of our deliberations were marked by collegiality, respect and sense of family. So thank you Chair Marita for leading us through the crisis and for being the source of our limitless inspiration and boundless lessons on diplomacy, humility, integrity, transparency, accountability and genuine love for our country.

Let me also recognize the efforts of my colleagues at HTA Council. The HTA Council includes so many strong personalities which surprisingly complement each other. We have the devil's advocate, the witty comeback artist, the homo economicus, the BTS army, the format specialist, the medico cum entertainer, and the grammar nazi to name a few. This makes the long hours spent in deliberations, meetings and workshops near enjoyable and even entertaining. Never a dull moment in the HTA Council.

The HTA Council could have done something right as this is the third recognition given to us for our response to COVID-19, the others being the DOH All Experts for COVID-19 recognition last April 29, and the Presidential citation which was granted last June 16 to all expert bodies with monumental contributions in the successful national pandemic response.

We also would not have been able to accomplish this much without the support from the HTA Division of the DOH. The HTA Division selflessly works day and night to help the Council inform its deliberations extending even up to midnight, and makes sure that the evidence in its reviews are up to date and relevant to the HTA Council's recommendations. Not only are they competent in terms of technical output, but they are also dedicated and multi-talented individuals.

To close this brief message, allow me, on behalf of HTA Council, to thank the DOH and the entire IATF for the great and once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute to our national efforts to control COVID-19 and for heeding our recommendations to recalibrate the government's response. Thank you for making us a part of this special group composed of different experts, different disciplines and different personalities.

Mabuhay and congratulations as well to the IATF for bringing the country to a better new normal where Filipinos are now able to look forward to a fully recovered nation where we can once more live normal lives."

Note: There were no photos since there were no support staff from the HTA Division who were allotted slots.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **124th DOH Anniversary 2022 - Aliwan Festival Champions**

As part of the celebration of the DOH's 124th anniversary on 23 June 2022, the Health Regulation Team (HRT), with representatives from the HTA Division, performed for the Aliwan Festival which showcased Philippine street dances by various talents of the Department. From among all the competitors, the HRT was crowned as the champions.

On the same day, Dr. Anna Melissa Guerrero, Director IV of the HTA Division was awarded the 2021 Highest Performing Division Chief under the Health Regulation Team during the DOH's culminating activity in Swiss-Belhotel Blulane, Manila.





- **DOH CAROL-OKE CHOIR COMPETITION**

Nine members of the HTA Division, with other representatives from the HRT, Internal Audit Service (IAS), and Office of Legal Aid (OLA), sleighed their way into second place overall in the DOH CAROL-OKE competition for the DOH Year-End Celebration: One DOH for Healthy Merry Christmas. This event was participated in by all offices in the DOH, and included songs from the DOH official Christmas jingle and other popular Filipino Christmas songs.



2022 GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Staffing vis-a-vis Operations and Workload

- While the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) created eleven (11) plantilla positions in the HTA Division, the number of positions is not enough to handle the workload. Hence, the majority of the staff are still under contract of service (COS) leading to a high turnover rate.
 - Due to the continued state of public health emergency and the limited capacity of the division, COVID-19 topic requests were still prioritized for assessment while the evaluation of drug topics from the previous Formulary Executive Council (FEC) for PNF inclusion was stalled.
 - The office encountered issues in terms of the delays and cancellation of external commissioning of HTA to academic partners. Even if the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) had been signed this year, the assessments did not start. Thus, assessments were done by the HTA Division.
 - The workload for the start of the general HTA track was underestimated by the HTA Philippines, resulting in the HTA Division not being able to meet the target timelines from topic nomination to topic prioritization prescribed by the HTA Process Guide due to the limited human resources.
 - There were unforeseen work streams that were not taken into consideration during the previous operational planning of the Division. These included the Philippine Essential Medical Device Listing, the ASEAN HTA Harmonization project, the Public Service Continuity Plan, among others.

Limitation in Data Sources

There have been delays and limitations in the amount and quality of data. To address this, HTA Division continues to look for alternative sources of evidence.

2022 HTA Division Budget

- The HTA Division originally proposed a budget of Php 33.077 M for CY 2022. However, the 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP) levels for HTA approved by the DBM only amounted to Php 13.576 M with Php 6.352 M for HTA Division Job Order (JO) Salaries and Php 7.224 M for HTA Council Salaries, which are insufficient to support the operations of the HTA Council and HTA Division, 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.
- The HTA Division appealed through the Senate for the approval of the additional request. In January 2022, the final approved 2022 General Appropriations Act (GAA) for HTA Division was PHP 33.077 M.

2023 HTA Division Budget

- The HTA Division originally proposed a budget of Php 70.323 M for CY 2023. However, the 2023 DBM approved-NEP only amounted to Php 37.547 M. The Php 30M funds for the HTA Research was not included. The 2023 Approved NEP (37.547M) of the HTA is 13.51% higher than its 2022 GAA level (33.077M).
- The HTA Division appealed to the Congress/Senate the additional funds of Php 30M to allocate budget for the Senate with Special Provision to directly allocate to the DOST to avoid the lengthy process of procurement in the DOH. However, this was still not included in the approved GAB.

- The HTA Division again appealed through the BICAM Committee in November 2022 for the additional Php 30M for HTA Research as well as the special provision to transfer the GAB-approved Php 37.547M 2023 budget of HTA Division in order to initiate the transfer of HTA operations from DOH to DOST as mandated by the Universal Health Care Act.
- As of December 2022, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2023 approved budget for HTA Division was still PHP 33.077M excluding the Php30M budget for the HTA Research and requested Special Provisions.

2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
HTA Division-Proposed: ₱ 33.077M	HTA Division-Proposed: ₱ 70.323M
<p>NEP-Approved 2022 Budget: ₱13.576 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBM-Approved: ₱ 6.352M (for appeal) • Additional: ₱ 7.224M [for HTA Council Salaries] <p>The DBM-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>	<p>NEP-Approved 2023 Budget: ₱ 37.547M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBM-Approved: ₱ 30.323M • Additional: ₱ 7.224M [for HTA Council Salaries]. DBM lodged this under PS (should be under MOOE; appealed through Congress/Senate to re-allocate) • ₱ 30M budget for HTA Research with Special Provision to directly allocated to DOST was not included in the NEP-approved budget
	<p>GAB-approved 2023: ₱ 37.547M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ₱ 7.224M under PS was already re-allocated as MOOE to accommodate the honorarium of non-plantilla members of the HTA council. The new object of expenditure from PS to MOOE is "Other Professional Services" • ₱ 30M budget for HTA Research with Special Provision to directly allocated to DOST was not included in the GAB-approved budget
<p>GAA-Approved 2022: ₱ 33.077M (budget was approved through Senate appeals)</p>	<p>GAA-Approved 2023: ₱ 37.547M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include the HTA Division's request for Special Provision for the direct transfer of its 2023 budget to DOST in order to initiate the transfer of HTA operations from DOH to DOST as mandated by the Universal Health Care Act • ₱ 30M budget for HTA Research with Special Provision to directly allocate to DOST was not included in the GAA-approved

2023 GOALS AND WAYS FORWARD [Overview of work streams (WS)]

WS1A: HTA Governance - Process and Methods (AO-MG-PG Revision, New HTA Council Creation)

A. 2023-2025 HTA Council Reconstitution

The term of the current HTA Council members ended on 31 October 2022, but was extended through a reappointment (Department Personnel Order No. 2022- 3725) by the current OIC Secretary of Health until 30 March 2023. By June 2023, the HTA Philippines aims to complete filling-in the vacant positions and formally inaugurate the new set of HTA Council members.

Groundwork for this workstream has started. In September 2022, the DOH opened the nomination for the next set of HTA Council members that shall serve from 2023-2025 through the Department Circular No. 2022-0491 with the subject “*Nomination to the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTA Council) Core Committee and Subcommittee Members.*” Due to the limited number of nominations, the call for nominations was extended until 27 January 2023. As the transition of HTA Division from a DOH office to a DOST-attached agency begins in 2023, the appointment of the new HTA Council members shall be by the Secretary of Science and Technology. The HTA Division is closely coordinating with DOST with regards to the process; including the nomination, screening, selection, orientation and capacity building of the new HTA Council members.

B. AO-PG-MG Revision

In September 2020, the HTA Philippines issued the DOH Administrative Order (AO) No. 2020-0041 with the subject, “*The New Implementing Guidelines on Health Technology Assessment to Guide Funding Allocation and Coverage Decisions in support of Universal Health Care*” which was aimed at defining the overall framework to implement HTA as a priority setting mechanism that shall be recommendatory for DOH and PhilHealth financing and coverage decisions, the HTA Council and HTA Division. The 1st editions of the HTA PG and MG were also released together with the AO.

Consolidating all lessons learned from the last three (3) years of its implementation and considering new contexts and methods that should be explored, HTA Philippines aims to review and issue the revised AO 2020-0041 on the implementing guidelines of HTA by August 2023.

WS1B: HTA Governance - Standard Documents (ISO, SHE, CC, PSCP)

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Quality Management of HTA Division

Within 2023, it is aimed that the Manual of Procedures (MOP) of the HTA Division shall be finalized in order to uphold quality in the implementation of the HTA process under the DOST.

The groundwork for this workstream has started. On 01 October 2021, the HTA Division designated its ISO Core Committee, composed of plantilla personnel, through Department Personnel Order (DPO) No. 2022-3041 in connection with the implementation of DOH — Quality Management System (DOH-QMS) certifiable to ISO 9001:2015 Standards.

The aforementioned Core Team attended an orientation and awareness lecture on ISO 9001:2015 which was conducted on 05 December 2022 at the DOH Convention Center, Central Office. The activity was aimed at better understanding and uniform application of the pertinent standards.

Stakeholder Engagement (SHE) Framework

By December 2023, the HTA Philippines aims to release the Stakeholder Engagement (SHE) Framework to HTA. While the current 1st edition of the Philippine HTA Process Guide already integrates how relevant stakeholders can take part in various HTA process steps, many stakeholders are still confused about their involvement in the HTA process. Hence, HTA Philippines has decided to develop a separate document that will clearly present the framework on how, in the conduct of HTA, we incorporate and apply the standardized process of identifying stakeholders in the steps where their participation is needed, their roles and responsibilities, type and method of participation, as well as level of process and methods involvement. In line with this, the HTA Council shall conduct workshops and public consultations before finalizing and releasing it by the fourth quarter of 2023.

Citizen's Charter (CC)

The HTA Philippines aims to formalize its Citizen's Charter (CC) which shall describe the specific action points and timelines of the highly technical multistage process of conducting HTA. It shall guide the general public on how the different types of HTA tracks are being conducted. This is in compliance with the mandate of all government offices to have their own CC as stipulated in the Memorandum Circular No. 2019-002 or the "Guidelines in the Implementation of the Citizen's Charter." The HTA Division's Citizen Charter may be accessed here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UsU6yBhNwGoirrQUmU_ozqEZ9-K8ploS/view?usp=share_link

Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP)

In November 2022, the HTA Philippines developed a Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) to ensure continuity of our services and guarantee that the staff will efficiently carry out its tasks even in the face of unprecedented events. As such, there is a need to detail the plans and programs that the division must undertake to ensure the continuity of service. While the impact and severity of an emergency cannot be predicted with certainty, an effective continuity plan will help minimize the consequences of any disaster, enabling the timely reporting and carrying out of tasks of the division. *Note: The document has not been approved yet at the DOH OIC-SOH level.*

As per DOST management, HTA Philippines shall follow the general DOST PSCP, so an office-level PSCP is not expected from the HTA Division.

WS2: Assessments

Thirty-one (31) topics were prioritized in 2022 to proceed to assessment in 2023. Of these, six (6) shall undergo internal assessment while 25 shall undergo external assessment. In March 2023, the HTA Philippines initiated the Call for Proposals for the prioritized topics for external assessment with funding.

Moreover, since most of the evidence needed in the assessments is coming from different DOH offices and medical societies, there are plans to meet with them in 2023, alongside the introduction of the new HTA Council members, to highlight the importance of a cohesive relationship and data sharing dynamics between them and HTA Council to facilitate coverage decisions. Also, as context regarding assessments are important in the decision making of the HTA Council, the reconstitution of HTA Council in 2023 requires providing them context on the assessments being conducted. Plans on this orientation, along with provision of governance orientation, technical training, and observership in other HTA agencies are being laid down as one of the activities in 2023.

WS3: General Track 2023 Opening

For the first time since its establishment, HTA Philippines opened the HTA general track in 2022 and from this experience, the gaps in the current process, topic nomination forms, and prioritization criteria as specified in the process guide were identified. In 2023, these processes and documents (e.g., nomination forms) will be reviewed and reconfigured as part of the workstream on the AO-PG-MG Revision to streamline the topic prioritization process that will work for HTA Philippines and all stakeholders that are part of the process. It is aimed that by July 2023, the HTA Philippines shall open the General Track topic nomination process by conducting a stakeholder consultation on the draft 2023 HTA topic prioritization and nomination guidelines. The actual topic nomination period is expected to commence by October 2023.

WS4: DOST-HTA Matters

Following the UHC Act, HTA Philippines shall be transferred as an independent agency attached to the DOST in 5 years, several efforts since 2019 have been undertaken by technical working groups within the DOH and DOST to facilitate the transition of the HTA Council and Division.



Timeline of events undertaken for the HTA transfer from DOH to DOST

A culminating event dedicated to the official transfer of HTA from DOH to DOST was held on 15 December 2022. During the said event, the outputs and the status of our efforts were presented to OIC-Secretary of Health Maria Rosario Singh-Vergiere and DOST Secretary Renato Solidum. It was agreed upon that the HTA Division shall be officially transferred to the DOST as early as January 2023. The following are specific efforts undertaken for the transition:

- The transfer of the 2023 HTA budget from DOH to DOST was requested to the BiCameral Committee but was not approved after the issuance of the General Appropriation Act 2023 by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). A Memorandum of Agreement will be signed between DOH and DOST for the sharing of 2023 budget instead. This budget included salaries for Job Order (JO) and Contract of Service (COs) personnel as well as the other operating expenses of the Division
- On 20 December 2022, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) officially approved the transfer of the current HTA Division eleven (11) HTA Division *plantilla* positions from the DOH to the DOST- Office of the Secretary with NOSCA No. 2021-035329
- A DOST proposal for the creation of a full blown HTA office with 110 plantilla positions and its budgetary requirements was submitted to the DBM on 26 May 2022. This was a follow-through on the initial submission of the HTA Division to DBM in 2019.
- The DOST is ready to accommodate incoming staff from the DOH HTA Division in its available office space at the main office, but is also looking into leasing other locations that can house more HTA Division and HTA Council members.
- Since there is no budget allocated for office equipment of HTA Division at DOST, the DOH-Personnel and Administrative Division (PAD) is also looking into the possibility of donating existing equipment currently used by HTA Division staff upon transfer to DOST.
- The call for nominations for the new set of HTA Council Core Committee and Subcommittee members has commenced and is ongoing until 27 January 2023. The DOST Secretary will appoint the new HTA Council members in 2023.

Once HTA Council and HTA Division have been successfully transferred to the DOST, immediate plans moving forward include the creation of the DOST HTA Office, the new set of HTA Council and the HTA Research Network.

Apart from the abovementioned accomplishments and future plans for the transition, DOST has also been involved in the research commissioning of HTA-related projects in collaboration with HTA Division. Some of these researches are the development of the Methods Guide for Clinical Equipment and Devices and Devices Profiling, Other Health Technologies, and Traditional Medicine, and assessment of topics in the 2022 HTA research agenda. This year, the HTA Division encountered some challenges related to research commissioning such as the shortage of experts/institutions, and termination of project/s due to lack of capable researchers. Moving forward, the DOST foresees a much easier research commissioning process with the transfer of HTA Division to the DOST and the creation of the HTA research network that can further increase the research capacity of HTA Division.



Meeting of DOH and DOST Principals for the HTA Transition to DOST held on 15 December 2022 via Zoom



Meeting of DOH and DOST Principals for the HTA Transition to DOST held on 15 December 2022 via Zoom



HTA Division Team with Usec. Mercado-Grande after the Meeting of DOH and DOST Principals for the HTA Transition to DOST held on 15 December 2022



OIC-Secretary of Health Singh-Vergeire giving an opening message to the participants during the Meeting of DOH and DOST Principals for the HTA Transition to DOST held on 15 December 2022



Secretary Solidum, Jr. of Department of Science and Technology giving an opening message to the participants during the Meeting of DOH and DOST Principals for the HTA Transition to DOST held on 15 December 2022



Usec. Sahagun presented the updates on the immediate steps on the transition of HTA to DOST during the Meeting of DOH and DOST Principals for the HTA Transition to DOST held on 15 December 2022

W5: ASEAN HTA Harmonization Project

By December 2023, the HTA Division aims to begin the joint assessments for HTA Philippines and AMS and apply the harmonized format to a previous assessment. Representatives from the HTA Philippines will also attend the second workshop in Malaysia by September 2023.

Currently, the HTA Office is in coordination with the AMS through the ASEAN Secretariat and the Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC) to finalize the programme and plans for the project implementation. We have also contacted potential development partners to identify the areas of support that they may provide for this project, such as but not limited to, technical support, financial support, and provision of resource persons (i.e. speakers and lecturers).

ANNEXES

ANNEX A. HTA GOVERNANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER PUBLISHED ISSUANCE

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>Republic Act No. 11223</p> <p>Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Universal Health Care Act</p>	<p>Details key players in the conduct of HTA, and the specific roles of HTA Council 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/1PVmKo7DDz4j0Lr0tOi8hniSg7sT4oN_/view</p> <p>Philippine HTA Process Guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yJI8_D5VgKbp8mGkKJUNH39vzbBiVuZf/view</p> <p>Philippine HTA Methods Guide: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yJI8_D5VgKbp8mGkKJUNH39vzbBiVuZf/view</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-formulary-pnf-for-health-technology-assessment-hta-following-the-pnf-system-for-drugs/</p>
<p>Minor Inclusion of sambong in the PNF</p>	<p>HTA Council Recommendation for inclusions in the PNF</p>	<p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-p6f8gSAIKudoPMqJ7Ar1AnOe9h19bA4/view?usp=share_link</p>

Non-inclusion of rituximab SC in the PNF		https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K5q8X0KGMNHORzsY8QgmgnLnA5ZwE8wK/view?usp=share_link
Non-inclusion of eribulin in the PNF		https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ofX9QvloXsH5UIBuASei3Zghmn6py1b5/view?usp=share_link
Inclusion of Insulin Glargine and Non-Inclusion of Insulin Detemir in the PNF		https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ht6ugklam3IOoEK3UbT0KfNCj8rcHLX/view?usp=share_link
Inclusion of zoledronic acid in the PNF		https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b6jAtRzQCBoXKzaTTDhbQJSjDcnQtToX/view?usp=share_link
Inclusion of remdesivir for adults in the PNF		https://drive.google.com/file/d/193uHKoMHY7vggydgUuuDppz8VohbS_Jz/view?usp=share_link
COVID-19 recommendations	HTA Council Recommendation for COVID-19 Health technologies	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/covid-19/
Change in the generic name of nicotine polacrilex to nicotine	HTA Council issuances	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dOMUrfd1kWxMUIOSjnoNefxmYqJ1ScGT/view?usp=share_link
Amendment to the issuance on the minor inclusion of potassium citrate in the PNF	HTA Council issuances	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/09/27/department-circular-no-2022-0291-amendment-to-the-department-circular-2022-0291-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA-Council-recommendation-to-include-potassium-citrate-15-meq-extended-re/

Interim Guidelines on the Philippine Essential Medical Devices List (PEMDL)	HTA Council and EAC Interim Guidelines on the Philippine Essential Medical Devices List (PEMDL)	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/12/14/department-memorandum-no-2022-0545-interim-guidelines-on-the-process-and-methods-for-the-selection-of-medical-devices-for-inclusion-in-the-philippine-essential-medical-device-list-pemdl/
Updated process for COVID-19 technologies	HTA Council issuances	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E6vPnlwz-de0OoiLTORZ7XAUnQBdMyTB/view?usp=share_link
Changes to the Minor Inclusion Process	HTA Council issuances	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rwtjll99Nv3ao3Hxdl3sJ5qE29Cu9TXz/view?usp=sharing
Topics to the 2022 HTA Priority List	HTA Council issuances for stakeholder involvement	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ax1WkCFPY4xUDNFbu7gMFgck_TewSfUM/view?usp=share_link
Call for Nomination of Topics for the HTA Priority List		https://drive.google.com/file/d/13d-6B2HnwqrkH7wpHnBgHuVugVvIVjhq/view?usp=share_link
Changes to the Topic Nomination Forms		https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L4-XrMSo8DkZdUbhxqX23cQ43n0SqVF/view?usp=share_link
Final List of 2022 HTA Priority Topics		https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OYn7OjCRxqJvuiEQnutBU2t-uz83eZ_r/view?usp=sharing
Release of the HTA Social Values Guide		https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/12/13/advisory-publication-of-the-guidelines-on-the-application-of-the-philippine-social-values-on-the-health-technology-assessment-hta/

ANNEX B. SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENTS

Health Technology	Recommendation	Adopted by DOH or PhilHealth?	Link
PHE: Drugs			
Tocilizumab for COVID-19	Recommended for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults who are receiving systemic corticosteroids and require supplemental oxygenation or mechanical ventilation	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/05/16/HTA-Council-recommendation-on-the-inclusion-of-tocilizumab-in-the-pnf/
Remdesivir for Adult Patients with COVID-19 Requiring Hospitalization	Recommended for the government financing of Remdesivir for adult patients with COVID-19 requiring hospitalization through its inclusion in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF)	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/11/09/remdesivir/
PHE: Vaccines			
<i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> primary series for the pediatric population (5 to 11 years old)	Recommended DOH financing of <i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> as primary series in children ages 5 to 11 years old	Yes	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1thjloBccWkF8aq-cuXbw13u0duGtqVI/view
<i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> as Booster for Adolescents (12-17 years old)	Recommended DOH financing of <i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> as 1st booster for adolescents ages 12 to 17 years	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/07/11/HTA-Council-guidance-on-covid-19-boosters-for-the-adolescent-population/
<i>CoronaVac</i> primary series for pediatric population (6 to 17 years old)	Version 1: Cannot release recommendation due to the lack of WHO recommendation and Phase III clinical trial	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/13/HTA-Council-recommendation-on-coronavac-covid-19-vaccine-for-children-6-to-17-years-old/
	Version 2: Recommended as alternative for mRNA	Yes	

	vaccines for adolescents ages 12 to 17 years old		
	Version 3: Recommended as alternative for children 6 to 11 years old with contraindications to mRNA vaccines	Yes	
<i>Moderna</i> primary series for the pediatric population (6 to 11 years old)	Recommended <i>Moderna</i> primary series for children ages 6 to 11 years old	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/20/HTA-Council-recommendation-on-covid-19-moderna-for-children-6-to-11-years-old/
COVID-19 vaccines 4th dose for immunocompromised populations (ICP)	Recommended <i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> , <i>Moderna</i> , <i>AstraZeneca</i> , <i>CoronaVac</i> and <i>Sinopharm</i> as 4th dose/ 2nd booster for ICPs	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/04/22/secretary-of-health-approval-of-the-HTA-Council-recommendation-on-fourth-dose-for-immunocompromised-populations-icps/
COVID-19 vaccines 2nd booster for A1 (Healthcare workers) and A2 (elderly, ≥ 60 years old)	Version 1: Not recommended	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/06/21/doh-HTA-Council-guidance-on-covid-19-boosters-and-fourth-dose-for-healthcare-workers-senior-citizens-and-the-immunocompromised-population/
	Version 2: Recommended <i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> for HCW and elderly Recommended <i>Moderna</i> for HCW	Yes	
	Version 3: Recommended <i>Moderna</i> for elderly (≥ 60 years old)	Yes	
COVID-19 vaccines 2nd Booster for elderly aged ≥ 50 years old and individuals ages 18 to 49 years old with comorbidities	Recommended <i>Pfizer-BioNTech</i> and <i>Moderna</i> as 2nd booster for elderly ages ≥ 50 years old and individuals ages 18 to 49 years old with comorbidities	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/09/01/HTA-Council-recommendation-on-the-second-booster-of-covid-19-vaccines-for-the-prevention-of-covid-19-among-individuals-aged-50-years-old-and-older-and-individuals-with-c

			comorbidities-aged-18-to-49-years-old/
<i>AstraZeneca</i> 2nd booster for HCWs, elderly ages \geq 50 years old and individuals ages 18 to 49 years old with comorbidities	Recommended <i>AstraZeneca</i> as 2nd booster for HCWs, elderly ages \geq 50 years old and individuals ages 18 to 49 years old with comorbidities	Yes	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=190003496909849&set=a.132095846033948
COVID-19 vaccines 2nd booster for individuals aged 18 to 49 years old without comorbidities	Not recommended	Yes	NA
Moderna Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine as booster for A1, A2 and A3.	Cannot release HTA Council recommendation due to the lack of FDA EUA	Not yet adopted	N/A
Monkeypox Vaccines	HTA Council cannot make recommendations due to the lack of Phase III trials, limited Phase IV trials, and lack of CPR.	Not yet adopted	N/A
PHE: Clinical Equipment and Devices			
Self-Administered Antigen Testing for COVID-19	Recommended for diagnosis among suspect and probable cases with high risk of developing severe COVID-19 and for screening HCWs	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/08/25/HTA-Council-guidance-self-administered-antigen-test-kits-saagt/
Philippine National Formulary Topics			
Abiraterone for adult men with prostate cancer	Recommended for inclusion in the PNF in combination with prednisone as first-line treatment or second-line treatment for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC)	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/12/15/department-circular-no-2022-0625-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA-Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-abiraterone-acetate-and-non-inclusion-o

			f-enzalutamide-for-individuals-with-metasta
Enzalutamide for adult men with prostate cancer	Not recommended for inclusion in the PNF as first-line treatment or second-line treatment for mCRPC due to expensive cost.	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/12/15/department-circular-no-2022-0625-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-abiraterone-acetate-and-non-inclusion-of-f-enzalutamide-for-individuals-with-metasta/
Eribulin for metastatic Soft Tissue Sarcoma (mSTS)	Not recommended for inclusion in the PNF as second-line treatment of mSTS due to no significant clinical benefit compared to dacarbazine, a drug which is already in the PNF.	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/09/20/department-circular-no-2022-0486-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA Council-recommendation-for-the-non-inclusion-of-eribulin-as-second-line-treatment-of-metastatic-soft-tissue-sarcoma-msts-the/
Insulin detemir (100 U/mL, 3 mL prefilled pen) for type 1 diabetes mellitus	Not recommended for inclusion in the PNF in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus inclusion due to high budget impact and lack of biosimilar competitors.	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/14/department-circular-no-2022-0537-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-insulin-glargine-and-non-inclusion-of-insulin-detemir-for-patients-with-type-1-or/
Insulin detemir (100 U/mL, 3 mL prefilled pen) for type 2 diabetes mellitus	Not recommended for inclusion in PNF in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus inclusion due to high budget impact and lack of biosimilar competitors.	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/14/department-circular-no-2022-0537-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-insulin-glargine-and-non-inclusion-of-ins

			ulin-detemir-for-patients-with-type-1-or/
Insulin glargine (100 IU/mL, 10 mL vial and 3 mL pre-filled pen) for type 1 diabetes mellitus	Recommended for inclusion in the PNF in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/14/department-circular-no-2022-0537-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA-Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-insulin-glargine-and-non-inclusion-of-insulin-detemir-for-patients-with-type-1-or/
Insulin glargine (100 IU/mL, 10 mL vial and 3 mL pre-filled pen) for type 2 diabetes mellitus	Recommended for inclusion in the PNF in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/14/department-circular-no-2022-0537-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA-Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-insulin-glargine-and-non-inclusion-of-insulin-detemir-for-patients-with-type-1-or/
Rituximab SC for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (DLBCL)	Not recommended for inclusion in the PNF for patients with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (DLBCL) due to higher budget impact compared to rituximab IV.	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/09/02/HTA-Council-recommendation-for-the-non-inclusion-of-rituximab-1400-mg-11-7-ml-solution-for-subcutaneous-sc-injection-for-the-treatment-of-non-hodgkins-lymphoma/
Rituximab SC for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (FL)	Not recommended for inclusion in the PNF for patients with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (FL) due to higher budget impact compared to rituximab IV.	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/09/02/HTA-Council-recommendation-for-the-non-inclusion-of-rituximab-1400-mg-11-7-ml-solution-for-subcutaneous-sc-injection-for-the-treatment-of-non-hodgkins-lymphoma/

Zoledronic acid for prevention of skeletal-related events in cancer patients	Recommended for inclusion in the PNF for the treatment of patients with malignancy-related bone disease	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/10/28/department-circular-no-2022-0560-health-technology-assessment-council-HTA-Council-recommendation-for-the-inclusion-of-zoledronic-acid-for-individuals-with-malignancy-related-bone-disease-in-the-philip/
Minor Inclusion Topics			
Vasopressin 20 I.U./mL (IV/IM/SC) for the management of septic shock	Recommended for reinclusion in the PNF	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/03/09/HTA-Council-recommendation-on-the-re-inclusion-of-vasopressin-in-the-pnf/
Potassium citrate 1620 mg (15 mEq) tablet for severe hypocitraturia and recurrent kidney stones	Recommended to include in the PNF the additional dosage strength	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/05/19/HTA-Council-recommendation-on-the-minor-inclusion-of-potassium-citrate-1620-mg-15meq-tablet-in-the-pnf/
Nicotine polacrilex chewing gum	HTA Council concurs with the change in the generic name of “nicotine polacrilex medication chewing gum” to “nicotine”	Yes	https://hta.doh.gov.ph/2022/08/04/department-personnel-order-no-2022-0400-change-in-the-generic-name-of-nicotine-polacrilex-medicated-chewing-gum-in-the-philippine-national-formulary-pnf-to-nicotine/