

Harmonisation and Confidence in Decisions – Key Benefits of Nordic HTA-collaboration

Why do Nordic countries collaborate on health technology assessment (HTA), and what does it mean for patients? The Nordic countries collaborate to harmonise assessments of new medicines and to strengthen the quality and consistency of the HTA reports, as well as the confidence in decision-making. These factors directly benefit patients and accordingly emphasise the importance of regional HTA collaborations, such as Joint Nordic HTA-Bodies, JNHB.

The main benefits for patients are:

- **Simultaneous assessments:** Assessing new medicines jointly in the Nordic countries makes assessment reports accessible to Nordic decision makers simultaneously. This enables patients across the Nordic countries to access new treatments within the same time frame.
- **Harmonised approach to evaluation:** In JNHB, assessments are made on a common evidence base and conclusions are summarised in a joint report. This ensures a harmonised approach to HTA and maintains high quality assessments that are professionally sound.
- **Decisions based on the same report:** When decision makers in the Nordic countries base their decisions on a JNHB report, patients can trust that decisions are based on conclusions supported by all Nordic HTA bodies. This builds trust in decisions.
- **Short timelines:** Short timelines support that new treatments can reach Nordic patients sooner. Working together enables Nordic HTA bodies to distribute tasks and share resources. This way collaboration increases efficiency.
- **Potential for patients with rare diseases:** Patients with rare diseases may face unequal access to treatment. Conducting a joint Nordic assessment for orphan products is one way to diminish differences in access for patients with rare diseases across the Nordic region.

In summary, consolidating assessments into a single Nordic evaluation, supports equal and timely access to new cost-effective treatments for patients across the Nordic countries.

What have we done in JNHB to harmonise assessments and increase efficiency?

JNHB has mapped HTA methodology and found a high degree of similarity across the Nordic countries. The results of the mapping have been compiled into a joint dossier template for JNHB to ensure national needs and increase harmonization of the joint report. In each assessment, all countries are involved in reviewing the reports with a focus on quality and consistency, while balancing national requirements and Nordic alignment.

To increase transparency and efficiency in the assessment processes, JNHB have made a process guidelines describing the timeline, steps, roles and responsibilities. With the joint effort, recent evaluations have ranged from 68 to 92 working days, thus adhering to the aim of completing a JNHB assessment within 90 working days. Resource sharing enables Nordic HTA bodies to leverage collective expertise and avoid duplication of efforts.

Benefits for the Health Technology Developer, HTD

Resource sharing applies not only to HTA-bodies but also to companies involved in the process. HTDs benefit from a single, streamlined application process with one dossier and one point of contact, avoiding multiple parallel national procedures with differing requirements and timelines. Efficient procedures and short timelines for assessment should also benefit the HTD, as their new products will get the possibility to be available at the Nordic market earlier – when offered at a cost-effective price.