

Priorities - Healthcare

Health Technology Assessment: tackling inequality of access



ISSUE

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) processes in Europe are currently fragmented, with different national approaches contributing to inequalities in access. Innovative technologies can generate efficiencies in healthcare systems to make them more accessible, safe and sustainable. The regulatory environment needs to adapt, as the assessment of the added value of healthcare technologies is key to drive faster access for patients across Europe.



RECOMMENDATION

- Support the Commission's push to **harmonise the assessment** of clinical evidence and avoid the duplication of the process across Member States;
- Promote a **balanced approach and methodology** to reflect the specificities of each healthcare sector;
- **Retain Member State autonomy** to perform country-specific socio-economic appraisals and make decisions regarding pricing and reimbursements;
- **Limit the scope** of the regulation to joint clinical assessments for pharmaceutical products; and
- Ensure **cross-stakeholder consultation**, a formal stakeholder network must be part of this process.

Intellectual property (IP) incentives for new medicines



ISSUE

The life sciences industry contributes significantly to Europe's economic and social prosperity, strengthening EU industrial competitiveness and growth. Intellectual property rights (IPR) are key to driving investment and innovation in Europe, and as the Commission reviews the IP incentives framework, it is critical to protect the current framework from erosion to safeguard investment in pharmaceutical research. To move backwards on IP incentives would send a negative message to the US and global investors as to the prospects of the European R&D sector.



RECOMMENDATION

- **Preserve existing IPR and incentives** for product development, providing certainty and protection needed to develop new and innovative products that meet the needs of patients; and
- **Develop and implement** new economic models and incentives to stimulate R&D and European potential in the fields of new antibiotics, vaccines and rapid diagnostics.

Digital health for improved patient outcomes



ISSUE

Digital health has the potential to revolutionise people's lives and transform healthcare systems. Digital tools enable innovative approaches to independent living and integrated health and social care, while data and analytics help accelerate scientific research, effective treatments and early diagnosis. EU policies need to keep pace with technological advancements to enable the development and wide scale deployment of digital health solutions.



RECOMMENDATION

- Support Commission actions to **build digital service infrastructure** (ePrescriptions, patient summaries);
- **Enable secure access and data sharing** across borders and adopt electronic health record (EHR) standards;
- **Remove barriers** in Member States for the integration of digital health technologies (eg, reimbursements);
- **Support digital solutions**: provide technical help and innovative procurement tools, share best practices.