Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BAGONG PILIPINAS

22 April 2024

LESLIE MICHELLE M. DALMACIO, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of the Philippines Manila

Dear Dr. Dalmacio:

Greetings from the *Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Philippines!*

Pursuant to the Universal Health Care Act, HTA was institutionalized to champion evidence-informed health policy and decision-making as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism supporting coverage decisions of the Department of Health (DOH) and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC).

Underpinning the development of these HTA-informed coverage recommendations are evidence generation activities through the conduct of our assessments and other research relevant to HTA methodologies.

As a recognized institution in the field of public health, we would like to endorse our ongoing call for proposals for *the **2023 Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Research Agenda - Batch 2 and 2024 HTA Research Agenda - Batch 1***. The priority topics include the following projects:

1. HTA Methods Guide for assessing health technologies classified as Medical and Surgical Procedures
2. Updating of the Discount Rate for HTA Philippines Reference Case for Economic Evaluations
3. Exploratory Study on Setting Cost Effectiveness Threshold for HTA in the Philippines
4. Health Technology Assessment of the following HTA priority topics for Inclusion in the Philippine National Formulary:
    a. Brexpiprazole for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)
    b. Vortioxetine for MDD
    c. Paroxetine for MDD
    d. Paroxetine for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

The objectives of these projects can be seen in *Annex A*. Also attached herewith are the guidelines for your perusal.

- Projects 1-3 capsule proposal submission
- Project 4 request for capsule proposal

Should you be interested to submit a capsule proposal for projects 1-3, please let us know **on or before 13 May 2024** (Monday) through our official HTA Research email address, htaresearch@dost.gov.ph. Your submission of the capsule proposal will then be anticipated **until 17 May 2024 (Friday)**. Meanwhile, for project 4, you may submit your proposals to the link provided above on or before **27 April 2024**.

For questions or concerns, you may contact us through htaresearch@dost.gov.ph.

Thank you very much and we look forward to working with you.

Respectfully yours,

for:

ANNE JULIENNE GENUINO-MARFORI, RPh, MSc
Division Chief, HTA Division

Marita V.T-Reyes

MARITA TOLENTINO-REYES, MD
Chairperson, HTA Council

CC: *Undersecretary Maridon O. Sahagun, DOST Scientific and Technical Services*

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ANNEX A. PRIORITY TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES

Topic	Objectives
2023 HTA Research Agenda - Batch 2	
HTA Methods Guide for assessing health technologies classified as **Medical and Surgical Procedures**	**General objective:** To develop a Health Technology Assessment Methods Guide for the assessment of health technologies classified as medical and surgical procedures **Specific objectives:** 1. To review the current HTA Philippines Methods Guide and methodologies in other settings and to identify applicable methodologies relevant to the assessment of the clinical, economic, and ethical, legal, social, and health systems impact of medical and surgical procedures 2. To identify or develop methods for the assessment of medical and surgical procedures 3. To conduct expert consultation to validate the proposed assessment methodologies 4. To draft a methodological framework for the assessment of medical and surgical procedures 5. To validate the methodological framework through a pilot assessment of an existing medical and surgical procedure 6. To develop a manuscript discussing the development of the methods guide that will be ready for journal publications
2024 HTA Research Agenda - Batch 1	
Updating of the Discount Rate for HTA Philippines Reference Case for Economic Evaluations	**General Objective:** To establish a contextually relevant framework for determining discount rates for health economic evaluations within the Philippine healthcare system and to update the discount rate for the Philippine Reference Case based on the established framework. **Specific Objectives** 1. To review the current discount rates prescribed in the 1st edition of the HTA Methods Guide vis-a-vis existing methodologies and approaches for determining discount rates in health economic evaluations applied by other HTA agencies 2. To develop a methodological framework for determining discount rates in economic evaluations applicable to the Philippine setting 3. To estimate and update the discount rate based on the developed framework. 4. To validate the proposed methodological framework and updated discount rate with key stakeholders 5. To draft a technical report detailing the development process and findings of the study
Exploratory Study on Setting Cost Effectiveness Threshold for HTA in the Philippines	**General Objective** To assess the feasibility of the different methods for CET determination in the Philippines setting and possibly CET estimation **Specific Objectives**

Topic	Objectives
	1. To review existing international and local frameworks, approaches, methodologies, and empirical estimates of cost-effectiveness thresholds in healthcare settings with focus on low-to-middle-income countries 2. To identify and evaluate applicable methodologies for estimating and defining cost-effectiveness thresholds, including an assessment of the expertise and data requirements involved for each method 3. To assess the advantages and disadvantages of setting an implicit or explicit CET based on experiences in other settings 4. To conduct expert consultations with key stakeholders, including healthcare policymakers, economists, clinicians, and government representatives 5. To develop a methodological framework for determining a cost-effectiveness threshold in the Philippines considering the results of the review of the different methodologies (both supply and demand side methods) based on the most feasible methodology 6. To develop a step by step procedure for estimation of CET 7. To draft a technical report detailing the development process and findings of the study
Health Technology Assessment of the following HTA priority topics for Inclusion in the Philippine National Formulary: a. Brexpiprazole for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) b. Vortioxetine for MDD c. Paroxetine for MDD d. Paroxetine for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	**General Objective:** To conduct health technology assessment on the following identified priority drug topics for inclusion in the Philippine National Formulary (PNF): ● Brexpiprazole (500mcg, 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg tablet / 250mcg, 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg film-coated tablet) ○ Indication: adjunct therapy for major depressive disorder (MDD) ○ Population: Patients with major depressive disorder who either not responded or only partially responded to the initial antidepressant medication ○ Intervention: Brexpiprazole as adjunct therapy ○ Comparator: Placebo / Aripiprazole / Quetiapine / olanzapine as adjunct therapy ○ Outcomes: ■ Efficacy Outcomes: ● Response rate ● Remission rate ● Severity of Depressive Symptoms (as measured by eg: HAM-D24, CGI-S, CGI-I MADRS, etc.) ● Functional impairment (based on Sheehan Disability Scale) ● Quality of life ● Relapse rate/risk of relapse ■ Safety Outcomes: ● Adverse Events ● Ideations of suicide, suicide attempt ● Systemic AEs

Topic	Objectives
	● Non-serious AEs ● Serious AEs ● Non-fatal SAEs ● Treatment Emergent AEs ● TEAEs leading to discontinuation ■ Economic Impact: ● Cost-effectiveness - cost per quality-adjusted life-year ● Budget impact - difference in national implementation cost between the interventions ● Cost of illness and out of pocket expenses ■ Ethical, Legal, Social, and Health System Impact: Ethical impact ● equity and fairness of coverage decisions ● considerations for special subgroups Legal impact ● Alignment or incongruence with any law or policy Social impact ● Social acceptability ● Cultural factors affecting patient and caregiver preferences and values Health systems impact ● Availability ● Feasibility - capacity of human resources, service capacity or facilities, ● Potential to impact other roles of existing organizations ● Vortioxetine [5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 20mg film-coated tablet] ○ Indication: first-line or second-line treatment for MDD ○ Population: For adults with Major Depressive Disorder ○ Intervention: Vortioxetine as first-line or second-line treatment ○ Comparator: Placebo, Sertraline, Fluoxetine, and Escitalopram (PNF- listed drugs for MDD) ○ Outcomes: ■ Efficacy Outcomes: ● Response rate ● Remission rate ● Depression score (as measured by, eg : HAM-D24, CGI-S, CGI-I MADRS, etc.) ● Functional impairment (based on Sheehan Disability Scale) ● Quality of life ● Relapse rate/risk of relapse

Topic	Objectives
	■ Safety Outcomes: ● Any AEs ● Systemic AEs ● Non-serious AEs ● Serious AEs ● Non-fatal SAEs ● Treatment Emergent AEs ● TEAEs leading to discontinuation ■ Economic Impact ● Cost-effectiveness - cost per quality-adjusted life-year ● Budget impact - difference in national implementation cost between the interventions ● Cost of illness and out of pocket expenses ■ Ethical, Legal, Social, and Health System Impact Ethical impact ● Equity and fairness of coverage decisions ● Considerations for special subgroups Legal impact ● Alignment or incongruence with any law or policy Social impact ● Social acceptability ● Cultural factors affecting patient and caregiver preferences and values Health systems impact ● Availability ● Feasibility - capacity of human resources, service capacity or facilities, ● Potential to impact other roles of existing organizations ● Paroxetine [(as hydrochloride) 20mg Tablet / Film-coated Tablet] ○ Indication: first line treatment for MDD ○ Population: Adults with Major Depressive Disorder ○ Intervention: Paroxetine as first line treatment ○ Comparator: SSRIs (Escitalopram; Fluoxetine; Sertraline)/ Placebo ○ Outcomes: ■ Efficacy Outcomes ● Response rate ● Remission rate ● Depression score (as measured by, eg : HAM-D24, CGI-S, CGI-I MADRS, etc.) ● Functional impairment (based on Sheehan Disability Scale) ● Quality of life ● Relapse rate/risk of relapse

Topic	Objectives
	■ Safety Outcomes ● Ideations of suicide, suicide attempt ● Any AEs ● Systemic AEs ● Non-serious AEs ● Serious AEs ● Non-fatal SAEs ● Treatment Emergent AEs ● TEAEs leading to discontinuation ■ Economic Impact ● Cost-effectiveness - cost per quality-adjusted life-year ● Budget impact - difference in national implementation cost between the interventions ● Cost of illness and out of pocket expenses ■ Ethical, Legal, Social, and Health System Impact Ethical impact ● Equity and fairness of coverage decisions ● Considerations for special subgroups Legal impact ● Alignment or incongruence with any law or policy Social impact ● Social acceptability ● Cultural factors affecting patient and caregiver preferences and values Health systems impact ● Availability ● Feasibility - capacity of human resources, service capacity or facilities, ● Potential to impact other roles of existing organizations ● Paroxetine [(as hydrochloride) 20mg Tablet / Film-coated Tablet] ○ Indication: for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) ○ Population: Adults with Major Depressive Disorder ○ Intervention: Paroxetine for PTSD ○ Comparator: SSRIs (Escitalopram; Fluoxetine; Sertraline)/ Placebo ○ Outcomes: ■ Efficacy Outcomes ● Clinical-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) score ● Clinical Global Impressions (CGI) Scale ● Quality of life ■ Safety Outcomes

Topic	Objectives
	● Any AEs ● Systemic AEs ● Non-serious AEs ● Serious AEs ● Non-fatal SAEs ● Treatment Emergent AEs ● TEAEs leading to discontinuation ■ Economic Impact ● Cost-effectiveness - cost per quality-adjusted life-year ● Budget impact - difference in national implementation cost between the interventions ● Cost of illness and out of pocket expenses ■ Ethical, Legal, Social, and Health System Impact Ethical impact ● Equity and fairness of coverage decisions ● Considerations for special subgroups Legal impact ● Alignment or incongruence with any law or policy Social impact ● Social acceptability ● Cultural factors affecting patient and caregiver preferences and values Health systems impact ● Availability ● Feasibility - capacity of human resources, service capacity or facilities, ● Potential to impact other roles of existing organizations **Specific Objectives:** 1. To perform review of reviews or a systematic review on the clinical efficacy and safety of the identified drug topics for inclusion in the PNF. 2. To perform review of international guidelines (NRA guidelines, country guidelines and clinical practice guidelines) of other countries and HTA Agencies. 3. To conduct cost minimization analysis or cost-effectiveness analysis, a 5-year budget impact analysis, and a household financial impact analysis, for drugs that will show comparable or significant benefit based on Specific Objective 1. 4. To develop an evidence summary for each identified drug or each drug class, containing the clinical and costing evidence, following the specified format.