

# CALL GUIDE

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Philippines invites interested Filipino researchers to submit capsule proposals under the 2023-2024 HTA Research Agenda Program (*HTA Research Topics 2023 - Batch 2 and HTA Research Topics 2024 - Batch 1*)

- The HTA Research Agenda 2023 - batch 2 consists of a project that aims to develop HTA Methods Guides specific to the assessment of health technologies classified as Medical and Surgical Procedures
- The HTA Research Agenda 2024 - batch 1 consists of projects that aim to:
  - to assess the feasibility of the different methods for cost effectiveness threshold (CET) determination in the Philippines setting and possibly estimation of the CET
  - 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

## HTA Research Agenda 2023 - Batch 2 topics

The following are the research topics to be funded under this Call for Capsule Proposals:

### METHODS GUIDE DEVELOPMENT:

HTA Methods Guide for assessing health technologies classified as *Medical and Surgical Procedures*

## HTA Research Agenda 2024 - Batch 1 topics

The following are the research topics to be funded under this Call for Capsule Proposals:

### HTA REFERENCE CASE RESEARCH AGENDA:

1. Updating of the Discount Rate for HTA Philippines Reference Case for Economic Evaluations
2. Exploratory Study on Setting Cost Effectiveness Threshold for HTA in the Philippines

Please refer to the attached Annex C for the details on the project objectives, suggested methodology, project duration, and budget allotment.

## General Guidelines

1. There shall be two (2) stages in the proposal evaluation. The first is the submission of a capsule proposal, and the second is the submission of the full proposal. The full proposal is submitted only upon approval of the capsule proposal.
2. The capsule proposal should not be more than two (2) pages (Arial font 11, single spacing). Deadline for the submission of the capsule proposal and other requirements is **17 May 2024**.
3. The capsule proposal shall be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - a. *Relevance & Sensitivity - Alignment of the research questions and objectives to the research agenda*
  - b. *Technical/Scientific - Sound methodology; alignment to the research questions and HTA Methods Guide*
  - c. *Data Management - Technical merit on handling and management of data.*
  - d. *Financial Feasibility - Alignment of the projected project costs to the allocated budget for the research*
  - e. *Proponent's / Institutional Capacity - Good track record or CV with proven competence to implement and complete the project within the approved duration and budget.*
  - f. *Conflict of interest (COI) - No significant COI; following the COI declaration in the HTA Process Guide*
4. The review process will take **approximately 2 weeks** provided that all the requirements have been submitted. The proponent may need to revise the capsule proposal on the basis of the recommendations of the reviewers.
5. Proponents of approved capsule proposals shall be notified to proceed to the submission of the full proposal (*details to be provided*).

*Note: These guidelines only refer to the review of capsule proposals. A separate set of guidelines shall be issued for the processing and approval of the full proposal.*

## Who may apply for the grant?

Filipinos with **at least a Master's Degree** in a relevant field, have proven research competence / track record, and **employed in universities/colleges, research agencies/institutions, hospitals, and other health related agencies** are eligible to apply for the research grant.

## How to apply?

The interested researchers shall submit the following requirements to [htaresearch@dost.gov.ph](mailto:htaresearch@dost.gov.ph):

1. **Capsule proposal** [Annex A; [Link to downloadable template](#)]
2. **COI declaration** of the primary investigator [Annex B; [Link to template](#)]
3. **Cover Letter** to the HTA Division - DOST addressed to:

***ANNE JULIENNE G. MARFORI, RPh, MSc***

*Chief, HTA Division*

*Department of Science and Technology*

**Deadline of submission of the above requirements: 17 May 2024**

**Any concerns or questions?**

For any questions, comments or concerns, please email us at [htaresearch@dost.gov.ph](mailto:htaresearch@dost.gov.ph):

# ANNEX A - Template of Capsule Proposal

**Title:**

**Authors:**

**Affiliations:**

- I. BACKGROUND:**
- II. OBJECTIVES:**
- III. METHODOLOGY:**
- IV. ESTIMATED BUDGET**
- V. DURATION OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

*Note: The capsule proposal should not be more than two (2) pages (Arial font 11, single spacing).*

# ANNEX B - COI Declaration Form

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

**1. CURRENT FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

To the best of your knowledge, do 1) you or any of your relative within the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) civil degree, by affinity or consanguinity, 2) organization in which you serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee and/or 3) entity with whom you are negotiating or have any arrangement concerning prospective employment have any current involvement or financial link with any policy determining activity of the office/agency/advisory body/committee:

a. **INVESTMENTS** (e.g. stocks, bonds, retirement plans, trust, partnerships, sector funds, etc.)  **NONE** (If "none", skip to Item b.)

ESTABLISHMENT	TYPE OF INVESTMENT	OWNER (self, spouse, etc.)	NUMBER OF SHARES	CURRENT VALUE	CHECK PERCENTAGE NET WORTH		
					LESS THAN 5%	5-15%	MORE THAN 15%

b. **EMPLOYMENT** (Full or Part Time) (Current or Under Negotiation)  **NONE** (If "none", skip to Item c.)

ESTABLISHMENT	RELATIONSHIP	POSITION IN FIRM	DATE EMPLOYMENT OR NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN

c. **CONSULTANT/ADVISOR** (Current or Under Negotiation)  **NONE** (If "none", skip to Item d.)

ESTABLISHMENT	TOPIC/ISSUE	AMOUNT RECEIVED	DATE FROM	DATE TO	RELATED TO LISTED PRODUCTS/ INDICATIONS/ ISSUES

d. **CONTRACTS/GRANTS** (Current or Under Negotiation)  **NONE** (If "none", skip to Item e.)

TYPE OF AGREEMENT (contract, grant)	PRODUCT UNDER STUDY AND INDICATIONS	AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION TO		TIME PERIOD	SPONSOR*	YOUR ROLE**	AWARDEE	RELATED TO LISTED PRODUCTS/ INDICATIONS/ ISSUES
		INSTITUTION	YOU					
								<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
								<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

\* Government, Establishment, Institution, Individual  
 \*\* Site Investigator, Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator, Employee, Partner, No Involvement, or Other

IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES

1. CURRENT FINANCIAL INTERESTS (Continued)

e. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (PATENTS/ROYALTIES/TRADEMARKS)

NONE (If "none", skip to Item f.)

FOR	ESTABLISHMENT	RELATED TO LISTED PRODUCTS/ INDICATIONS/ ISSUES	IF "YES", EXPLAIN BELOW AND INDICATE INCOME RECEIVED
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

f. EXPERT WITNESS (Last 12 Months or under negotiation)

NONE (If "none", skip to Item g.)

I appeared for or against the following listed establishment(s) and issue(s)

FIRM AND ISSUE	AMOUNT RECEIVED	RELATED TO LISTED PRODUCTS/ INDICATIONS/ ISSUES	IF "YES", EXPLAIN BELOW AND INDICATE INCOME RECEIVED
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

g. SPEAKING/WRITING (Last 12 Months or under negotiation)

NONE (If "none", skip to Item 2.)

FIRM	TOPIC/ISSUE	AMOUNT RECEIVED		DATES	RELATED TO LISTED PRODUCTS/ INDICATIONS/ ISSUES
		HONORAR-IUM	TRAVEL		
					<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
					<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
					<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

2. PAST FINANCIAL INTERESTS

a. To the best of your knowledge, do 1) you or any of your relative within the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) civil degree, by affinity or consanguinity, 2) organization in which you serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee have any past involvement with any policy determining activity of the office/agency/advisory body/committee:

YES  NO  NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE

b. If "Yes," describe involvement.

FIRM/PRODUCT	FINANCIAL INVOLVEMENT (e.g. contract/consultant)	ROLE	DATES	RELATED TO LISTED PRODUCTS/ INDICATIONS/ ISSUES
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

**IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES**

**3. OTHER INVOLVEMENTS (Other Kinds of Relationships)**  **NONE** (If "none", skip to Item 4.)  
 Using the list of products/firms/issues, identify anything that would give an "appearance" of a conflict which has not been disclosed above (e.g. involvement in a lawsuit, researcher initiated study, gift of research materials, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**4. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ designated as \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

(First Name, MI, Family Name) (Position/Designation, when applicable) (Name of Agency, Office, Bureau, Service, Hospital, or Unit)

do hereby declare on my honor that the above information is true and complete, to the best of my knowledge. If there are any changes, I will promptly notify you. This includes any change that occurs before or during the meeting or work itself and through the period up to the publication of the final results or completion of the activity concerned.

My response contains \_\_\_\_\_ pages.

<b>NAME AND SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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**CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

The primary use of this information is for review of the Public Health Ethics Committee (PHEC) to determine compliance with applicable conflict of interest with laws and regulations.

This confidential report will not be disclosed to any requesting person, unless authorized by law.

Falsification of information or failure to file or report of information required to be reported is subject to disciplinary action by the DOH.

**FOR PHEC USE ONLY**

<b>NAME AND SIGNATURE OF REVIEWING OFFICIAL</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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**COMMENTS OF REVIEWING OFFICIAL**

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**IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES**

## ANNEX C - KEY DETAILS ON THE RESEARCH TOPICS

No	Topic	Objectives	Suggested Methodology	Project Duration	Budget
<b>2023 HTA Research Agenda Batch 2</b>					
1	<b>HTA Methods Guide for assessing health technologies classified as Medical and Surgical Procedures</b>	<p><b>General objective:</b> To develop a Health Technology Assessment Methods Guide for the assessment of health technologies classified as medical and surgical procedures</p> <p><b>Specific objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• To identify or develop methods for the assessment of medical and surgical procedures</li> <li>• To conduct expert consultation to validate the proposed assessment methodologies</li> <li>• To draft a methodological framework for the assessment of medical and surgical procedures</li> <li>• To validate the methodological framework through a pilot assessment of an existing medical and surgical procedure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature review of methodologies or HTA methods guide from other settings</li> <li>• Critical appraisal of the applicability of methodologies to the Philippine setting</li> <li>• Consultation with experts on the proposed methods</li> <li>• Validation of drafted methods guide through the conduct of a pilot assessment</li> </ul>	6 months	Php 1,500,000.00



No	Topic	Objectives	Suggested Methodology	Project Duration	Budget
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a manuscript discussing the development of the methods guide that will be ready for journal publications</li> </ul>			
<b>2024 HTA Research Agenda Batch 1</b>					
1	<b>Updating of the Discount Rate for HTA Philippines Reference Case for Economic Evaluations</b>	<p><b>General Objective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>To develop a methodological framework for determining discount rates in economic evaluations applicable to the Philippine setting</li> <li>To estimate and update the discount rate based on the developed framework.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Evaluation of Current Practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review of the current Philippine discount rate considering factors such as equity, efficiency, and consistency with international norms</li> </ul> <p><b>Literature Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>literature review of existing methodologies on discount rate determination in health economic evaluations and discount rates used for HTA in other countries with preference to lower middle-income settings</li> </ul> <p><b>Expert Consultations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultations with economists and health technology assessment experts, to gather insights on the advantages and disadvantages of different methodologies</li> </ul>	6 months	Php 1,500,000.00

No	Topic	Objectives	Suggested Methodology	Project Duration	Budget
		<p>4. To validate the proposed methodological framework and updated discount rate with key stakeholders</p> <p>5. To draft a technical report detailing the development process and findings of the study</p>	<p>to update the discount rate</p> <p><b>Methodological Framework Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of a methodological framework for determining and updating discount rates for the Philippine Reference Case for economic evaluations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Estimation of discount rate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preliminary estimate of the discount rate based on the proposed method</li> </ul> <p><b>Stakeholder Consultations/Validation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultation with key stakeholders (policymakers, marketing authorization holders, patient groups, medical societies) on the acceptability and feasibility of methodological framework and the preliminary results of the discount rate updating.</li> </ul>		
2	<b>Exploratory Study on Setting</b>	<b>General Objective</b>	<b>Literature Review</b>	6 months	Php 2,000,000.00

No	Topic	Objectives	Suggested Methodology	Project Duration	Budget
	<p><b>Cost Effectiveness Threshold for HTA in the Philippines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assess the feasibility of the different methods for CET determination in the Philippines setting and possibly CET estimation</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>3. To assess the advantages and disadvantages of setting an implicit or explicit CET based on experiences in other settings</li> <li>4. To conduct expert consultations with key stakeholders, including healthcare policymakers, economists, clinicians, and government representatives</li> <li>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</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- literature review on cost-effectiveness thresholds in healthcare, including advantages and disadvantages of implicit or explicit thresholds. Sources of literature may include journal articles, international guidelines, and methodologies from other HTA agencies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Expert Consultation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultations with economists and health technology assessment experts to gather insights on the applicability of existing methodologies, potential challenges, and considerations for defining a contextually relevant cost-effectiveness threshold.</li> </ul> <p><b>Methodological Framework Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of a refined methodological framework for determining a CET (either implicit or explicit) in the Philippines</li> </ul>		

No	Topic	Objectives	Suggested Methodology	Project Duration	Budget
		<p>supply and demand side methods) based on the most feasible methodology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. To develop a step by step procedure for estimation of CET</li> <li>7. To draft a technical report detailing the development process and findings of the study</li> </ol>	<p><b>CET Estimation Procedures Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identification of data needs and statistical procedures needed to estimate the CET considering data availability and the methodological framework</li> <li>- development of step by step procedure for CET estimation</li> <li>- preliminary/rough estimates based on the framework proposed, if possible with the proposed framework</li> </ul> <p><b>Stakeholder Consultations/Validation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consultation with key stakeholders (policymakers, marketing authorization holders, patient groups, medical societies) on the acceptability and feasibility of the methodological framework, whether to consider an explicit or implicit CET and preliminary results of the CET in the Philippines.</li> </ul>		

