

HTA at DIMDI

» **The systematic evaluation of health-relevant procedures and methods, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), was established as an effective means to safeguard the quality and economy of the German health care system.**

Since the establishment of the German Agency for Health Technology Assessment (DAHTA) as a division of the German Institute of Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI) in 2000, the development and implementation of information systems, specialised databases and HTA reports are a part of DIMDI's tasks.

HTA Reports

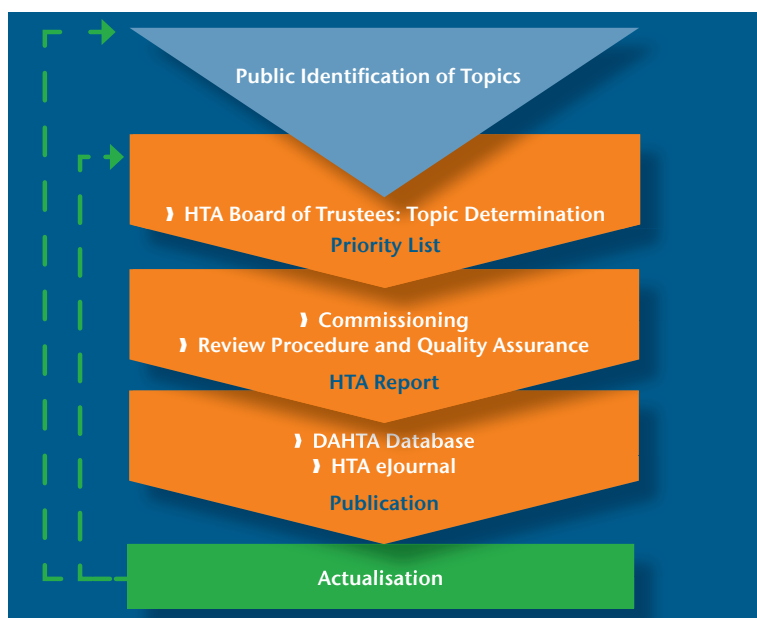
In an effort to promote advanced research, DIMDI commissions qualified scientists to prepare HTA reports which make statements on benefits, risks, costs and the impact of health-relevant technologies concerning the health care of the German population.

In this context the term "technology" refers to pharmaceuticals, as well as to instruments, devices, procedures, methods and organisational structures. Priority is given to topics in need of health policy decisions.

The following aspects are examined:

- » Experimental efficacy
- » Effectiveness under everyday conditions
- » Comparative assessment of effectiveness
- » Assessment of health economics (efficiency)
- » Social, legal and ethical implications

Topic identification takes place publicly: Under www.dimdi.de – HTA – HTA-Programmes anyone can propose a question and relevant background information to the subject database. Afterwards, the HTA Board of Trustees sets priorities and deter-



Development of HTA reports

mines the topics for future reports in a multi-level procedure. Their members represent a typical cross section of self-administration across the German health care system (i.e. insurance companies, hospitals and physicians), complemented by representatives of nursing, patients or consumers, as well as observer representatives from the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) and the industry.

Ever since the implementation of the Statutory Health Insurance Modernisation Act of 2003, the independent Institute »

You find HTA reports free of charge online:

www.dimdi.de – HTA.

They are published as well under www.egms.de.

» for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) can commission DIMDI to publish HTA reports.

The scientific quality and the liberty with which the HTA reports are produced are crucial for their validity. To ensure independence, quality control and sufficient transparency, international standards are not only employed but also cultivated. Nationally DAHTA is supported by the Scientific Board of HTA, which is comprised of representatives of the Federal Joint Committee (G-BA), the Association of the Scientific Medical Societies in Germany (AWMF), as well as scientists of various disciplines.

The Information System

The HTA information system provides current medical information at no cost to qualified personnel and non-professionals. German-language HTA reports of DAHTA are available as full-text documents including summaries in English. International HTA reports (e.g. of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, NICE) are available as well as those of IQWiG.

Under www.dimdi.de - HTA you will find:

- » DAHTA Database: HTA reports for the public health system, patients and medical science (available as full-text free of charge)
- » Information about DAHTAI
- » HTA methods and standards for the preparation of HTA reports
- » Information about HTA reports and the HTA programme at DIMDI
- » A public questionnaire for the submission of HTA themes

Many HTA relevant databases are available via the DIMDI database host. The databases produced by the Cochrane Library and the Centre for Dissemination and Re-

views of the National Health Service (NHS), Great Britain are included therein.



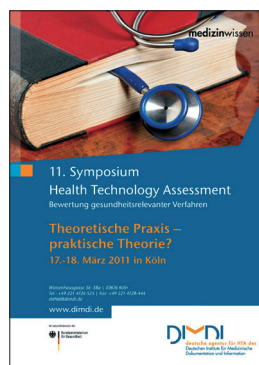
The HTA Information System at DIMDI

National and international literature databases (e.g. Cochrane Library) represent evidenced-based medicine (EbM). The information from these databases serves as a foundation to develop further methods of quality assurance in health care (e.g. guidelines).

The DAHTA staff offers further training for those interested in HTA in courses, seminars and workshops. Furthermore, DAHTA is also involved in academic training.

The HTA-Symposium

DAHTA organises HTA symposia where numerous experts and users can meet. Information about upcoming symposia



and their topics are available online on the HTA pages of DIMDI. ■

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