

EAA Fall Convention

EU HTA – Procedural Insights & First Learnings

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Impulse Presentation

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Involvement of Experts and HTA Bodies – Oncology Perspective

Abstract:

The increasing complexity of cancer care, driven by rapid advances in precision medicine and novel therapeutics, demands early and meaningful collaboration between clinical experts and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) bodies. In oncology, this interaction is crucial to ensure that innovative therapies reach patients in a timely, equitable, and evidence-based manner. However, the current landscape remains fragmented, with variability across countries in how expert opinions are integrated into HTA processes, and in how declaration of interest impact the capacity of experts to provide an expert opinion on these complex topics. Oncologists play a pivotal role in contextualizing clinical evidence, interpreting surrogate endpoints, and assessing unmet medical needs, particularly in rare and molecularly defined subgroups.

The **ESMO Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale (MCBS)** has emerged as a valuable tool to objectively grade the clinical value of anticancer therapies, providing a transparent, standardized framework that complements HTA evaluations. By quantifying meaningful patient benefit in terms of survival, quality of life, and toxicity, the MCBS supports prioritization of high-value interventions and facilitates alignment between clinical relevance and economic assessment. Integration of MCBS into HTA discussions could harmonize decision-making processes, enhance cross-country comparability, and ensure that reimbursement and access decisions reflect true clinical benefit.

From an oncology perspective, strengthening structured, transparent, and iterative engagement between experts and HTA bodies—while incorporating instruments such as the ESMO-MCBS—is essential to bridge the gap between innovation and patient benefit,



fostering a more efficient and patient-centered value assessment ecosystem in cancer care.