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HTA in Finland

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Finland operates through a network of organizations.

The Council for Choices in Health Care in Finland (COHERE Finland), established in 2014, provides recommendations on publicly funded examination, treatment, and rehabilitation methods. COHERE, working with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, considers research evidence, ethical considerations, and healthcare organization. It comprises up to 15 members with diverse expertise, supported by a secretariat and expert network.

The Finnish Coordinating Center for Health Technology Assessment (FinCCHTA), founded in 2018, leads the national HTA network. In collaboration with university hospitals, FinCCHTA focuses on hospital-based HTA through the mini-HTA process and produces Digi-HTA assessments for digital healthcare technologies. FinCCHTA also coordinates the National Assessment Network, addressing hospitals' assessment needs, decision-making, procurement, and generating data to support health policy and clinical decision-making.

The Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board (PPB) decides on the inclusion of outpatient medicines in the reimbursement system and their wholesale prices, evaluating applications based on therapeutic value and health economic assessments, considering treatment benefits, costs, and comparable drug prices in other European Economic Area (EEA) countries.

The National Vaccination Programme (NVP) is overseen by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, supported by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), which coordinates vaccine-specific working groups, evaluates the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases, monitors vaccination effects, and collaborates on vaccine procurement and distribution.

The HTA network is undergoing significant ongoing reforms to consolidate expertise and resources into a unified entity. The Finnish government aims to improve the assessment of healthcare methods and technologies, ensuring the introduction of effective and cost-efficient practices, and enhancing the equity of healthcare services. Consideration is being given to establishing a national body with the authority to make binding decisions on public healthcare services.