

# Scoping as a means to systematically involve patients and public in Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

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**Background:** To improve accountability and comprehensiveness, patient and public involvement (PPI) is crucial throughout the various stages of HTA. However, little is known as to how this can be achieved in a systematic, culturally sensitive way. The objective of the session is to compare different approaches to scoping (the systematic exploration of relevant aspects of a specific problem area from multiple perspectives), within the context of palliative care. Results will be presented that were obtained in the European FP-7 INTEGRATE-HTA project.

**Description/Objectives:** Scoping exercises as a first step in HTA on palliative care were conducted in several European countries. A qualitative approach was adopted in Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. Individual or focus group interviews took place in Italy and Germany. In the Netherlands, patients receiving palliative care took part in semi-structured interviews. Patients and the public were used as research partners in the UK, Norway and Poland. An adapted version of the EUnetHTA core model guided individual or group face-face discussions with a total of over thirty patients, carers or representatives of patient organisations. Thematic analysis and conceptual mapping identified key issues. Both approaches successfully facilitated PPI and each had advantages and disadvantages. Qualitative approaches provided rich data focused on issues identified as important by patients, relatives and professionals. The EUnetHTA core model provided a comprehensive framework for discussions, ensuring that issues pertaining to all domains of the model were identified.

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