

## PP40 The Use Of “Softer” Outcomes In The NICE Health Technology Assessment Process: The Case Of Multiple Sclerosis

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**Introduction:** Multiple sclerosis (MS) is characterized by a significant humanistic burden, as this is a chronic progressive disease associated with high levels of disability and need for caregiver support. Our objective was to explore to what extent “softer” outcome measures are considered as part of the health technology assessment (HTA) process of medications evaluated for the management of MS. **Methods:** We performed a review of all Technology Appraisal Guidance (TAs) available at the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) website, relating to the management of MS, in order to identify outcomes used either by the manufacturer or discussed by the Committee, that were beyond the typical ones around the clinical evidence, side effects, and costs associated with each technology under evaluation. The review focused on outcomes relating to the caregiver burden, the ease of use of the medication under evaluation, and the fatigue reported by patients.

**Results:** Fifteen TAs were identified. Eight (53%) of the TAs included information on the caregiver burden, where the manufacturers applied caregiver disutilities in the cost-effectiveness analyses, which were deemed appropriate by the Committee. Six (40%) of the TAs further included a discussion on the ease of use for specific medications where the Committee concluded that the benefits of the mode of administration may not have been captured in the cost-effectiveness analysis. Fatigue was discussed in two TAs; the Committee provided conflicting conclusions around this measure, but in the most recent TA, it recognized that fatigue was an important outcome measure.

**Conclusions:** Based on the above findings, it appears that “softer” outcome measures are deemed relevant in the HTA process for treatments aimed for MS, on top of the measures typically used in the HTA process; this highlights the importance of recording the humanistic burden of disease in a holistic way.

## PP41 Enhancing Health Technology Assessment Through Behavioral Economics: A Strategic Approach To Sustainable Healthcare Innovation

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**Introduction:** Behavioral economics (BE) offers a spectrum of underutilized tools that could significantly enhance health technology assessment (HTA). This study proposes integration of BE into HTA, recognizing that understanding behavioral drivers can help in evaluating health technologies’ sustainability and adoption rates, thereby aligning HTA more closely with real-world healthcare dynamics and patient needs.

**Methods:** The study reviews existing key BE concepts and proposals for integrating BE concepts such as loss aversion, present bias, framing effects, and social norms influence into HTA framework. Loss aversion refers to the tendency of people to prefer avoiding losses rather than acquiring equivalent gains, while present bias is the tendency to prioritize immediate rewards over future benefits. Framing effect is the cognitive bias where people decide on options based on whether they are presented with positive or negative connotations.

**Results:** Loss aversion can increase patient adherence to chronic disease management technologies by emphasizing the avoidance of negative health outcomes. Present bias limits adopting preventive technologies, where immediate costs overshadow long-term benefits. Framing effects may determine how the presentation of technologies influences acceptance; for example, by framing a new surgical device as reducing the risk of postoperative complications (a positive frame), rather than not increasing the risk (a negative frame), it may be more readily accepted. Additionally, use of default options in electronic health records can improve data accuracy, and recognizing social norms can drive broader adoption and success of telehealth solutions.

**Conclusions:** Integrating BE with HTA methodology offers a pathway to more patient-centered and sustainable health technology implementation, with an emphasis on patient behavior patterns. This approach enables HTA to more effectively address human behavior intricacies, ensuring that health technology evaluations are both comprehensive and relevant to the evolving needs of healthcare systems and patients.

## PP42 Implementing A Sustainable Enhanced Recovery From Surgery Pathway After Hip And Knee Arthroplasty: A Budget Impact Analysis

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**Introduction:** Increasing resources are devoted to osteoarthritis surgical care in Australia annually, with significant expenditure attributed to hip and knee arthroplasties. Safe, efficient, and sustainable models of care are required. This study aimed to determine the impact on healthcare costs of implementing an enhanced short-stay model of care (ESS-MOC) for arthroplasty at a national level.