

Information on Public Comments:

Organizations may wish to impart their groups' positions and beneficiaries may wish to share their perspectives. Researchers, physicians, product manufacturers, professional societies and other members of the health care community have important insights that can assist us in the health technology assessment process.

Public comments that provide information, preferably published clinical evidence, relating to a health technology's safety, efficacy, effectiveness, or cost-effectiveness are most helpful. Often, the health care community may have evidence relating to actual practice that is informative. Public comments that give information on unpublished evidence such as the results of individual practitioners or patients are less rigorous and therefore less useful for making evidence based coverage determinations. Public comments that are part of letter writing campaigns by groups or individuals who espouse a single point of view through identical or nearly identically worded emails or documents are not useful in this evidence based process.

HTA does not need, and is not requesting, individually identifiable/personal health information to inform its technology review. HTA is requesting information about a technology's safety, efficacy, effectiveness, or cost-effectiveness only for the purpose of its technology review and coverage decision processes. The HTA often reviews new technologies, or technologies being used in new ways, and recognizes that there may be regulatory or other restrictions on some organization's ability to provide information. HTA assures organizations that the information it is requesting is not considered by HTA to be a request for promotion of a product, and will not be used by HTA for promoting products or use of products, or for communicating or instructing patients or health care providers about the appropriateness of technologies in any individual situation.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the HTA program.