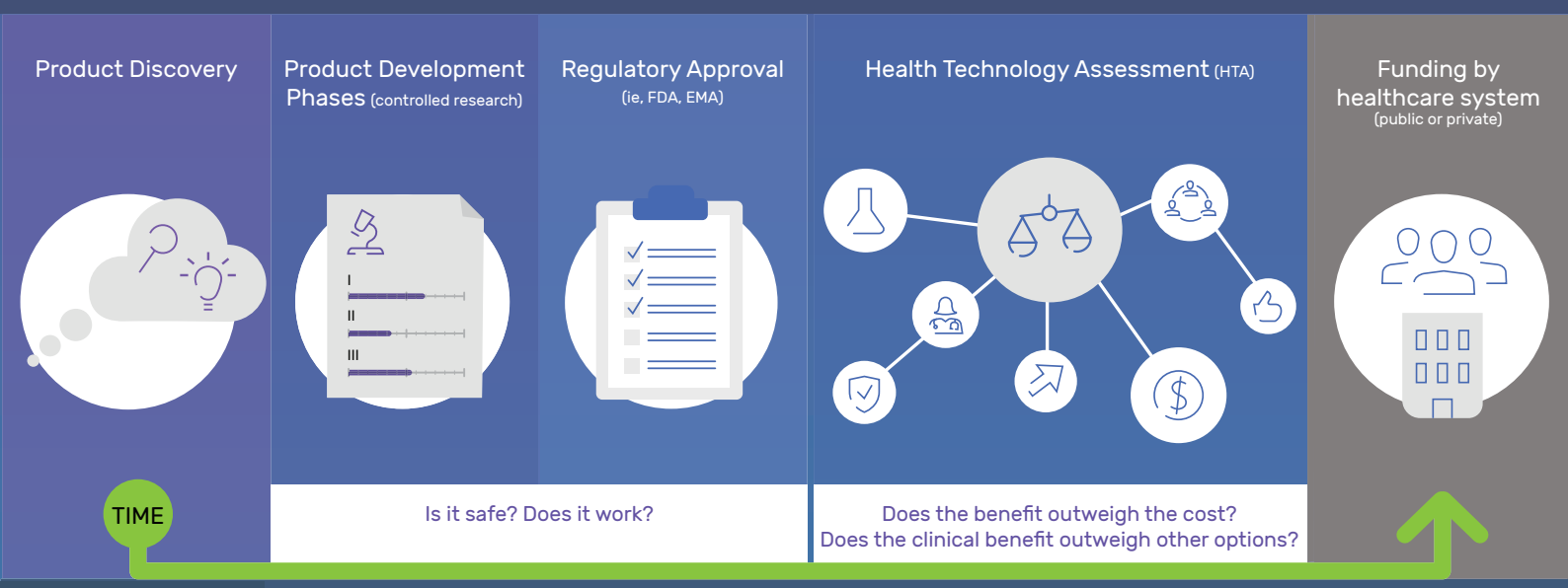
The purpose of this document is to provide a plain language explanation of the purpose and approaches to health technology assessment from a global perspective

What is **health technology assessment**?

Health technology assessment is...

- A comprehensive review of a new medical product ("health technology") in terms of its **health benefits and costs,** to decide whether it provides **sufficient value to warrant funding by a healthcare system.**
- This decision determines whether and how the new medical product will be made available to patients and is intended to prioritize funding of the products with the most overall benefit for cost.

A medical product may include a new drug, medical device, surgical or diagnostic procedure.



Who is responsible for health technology assessment?

Every country has its own way of conducting health technology assessment – usually abbreviated to HTA – depending on its healthcare system.

- Many countries have specific HTA organizations that are responsible for reviewing the evidence and deciding whether a new medical product should be funded by the national healthcare system.

How do health technology assessment organizations make their decisions?

HTA organizations take many factors into consideration in weighing up the value for money of a new medical product, including the clinical benefits (such as reduced symptoms or longer survival), side effects, and patients' quality of life while receiving treatment, as well as the product's cost.

Different organizations value different factors more highly.

- Some organizations consider **cost-effectiveness analyses** to be the crucial factor in decision-making, with defined thresholds for acceptable cost for benefit in some countries, such as the UK and Canada.
- Others put more weight on rigorous comparisons of clinical benefits with other existing treatments, such as Germany and France, or overall impact on the national or regional healthcare budgets, such as Italy and Spain.

How do we measure cost-effectiveness?

https://bit.ly/360Qftt

What does this mean for patients?

- The decisions made by HTA organizations have a significant impact on patients' lives, determining which medicines will be made available under the patient's healthcare system.
- HTA organizations are increasingly recognizing the importance of involving patients in this decision-making process, although the ways and extent to which patients are involved differs depending on the organization – sometimes patients or patient advocates are included in advisory groups, or patient groups may be given the opportunity to provide suggestions and share patient experiences online.

Further information:

- International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA): https://www.inahta.org/
- Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi): https://htai.org/
- European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA): https://eunethta.eu/
- EUPATI: HTA Systems in Europe: https://toolbox.eupati.eu/resources/hta-systems-in-europe/
- Institute for Clinical and Economic Review: https://icer-review.org/
- EUPATI Guidance for Patient Involvement in HTA: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmed.2018.00231/full

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