



HOW TO SUGGEST HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES FOR ACE TO EVALUATE?

The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) conducts technical evaluations to assess the effectiveness, safety, and value of health technologies (such as drugs and medical devices) that are used to diagnose, treat or prevent different medical conditions. These evaluations inform the Ministry of Health (MOH) advisory committees when they make funding recommendations.

Patients, carers or representatives from a patient or voluntary organisation can suggest which health technologies ACE should evaluate for different conditions (**topics**). This factsheet explains how to do this.

1 APPLICATION FORMS ARE SENT TO PATIENT ORGANISATIONS

Each year, usually around October, ACE invites patient organisations and clinicians to submit applications for health technologies that they would like ACE to evaluate for different conditions. This is known as the **annual call for topics**.

ACE will send all patient organisations an application form via email that they can **distribute** to their members to complete or they can collate their members' suggestions and complete the form on their behalf. An **online form** is also available for patients who prefer to submit topics electronically.

Completing the form is **voluntary** - patient organisations do not have to submit applications if they do not want to.



2 PATIENTS SUGGEST WHICH HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES THEY WOULD LIKE ACE TO EVALUATE

Patients or carers may have tried or heard of a health technology and feel that it should be considered for funding.¹ In the application form they will need to include:

- **name** of the health technology,
- **medical condition** it is used for,
- **dosage form** (if known) such as tablets, injections or inhalers, and
- **reasons** why the health technology should be funded

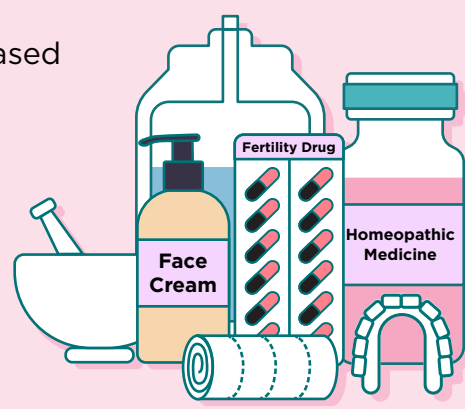
If patients have used the health technology before, they can also describe its **benefits** and **disadvantages**.

A separate form should be completed for each health technology.



Some health technologies are **outside** ACE's remit and will not be prioritised for evaluation. Patients should not include them in their forms:

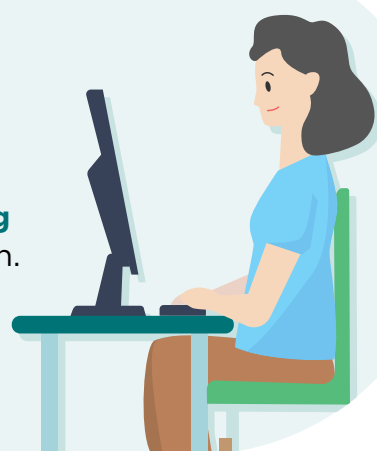
- ✗ Health technologies that do not have approval for use in Singapore yet*
- ✗ Dental technologies
- ✗ Dialysis solutions
- ✗ Fertility technologies
- ✗ General Sale List items (health products that can be purchased from retail outlets without prescription)
- ✗ Homeopathic medicines
- ✗ Lifestyle drugs (such as medicines to treat impotence, baldness, or wrinkles)
- ✗ Proton beam therapy
- ✗ Traditional Chinese medicines
- ✗ Vital sign monitoring devices (such as devices to monitor body temperature, blood pressure or breathing rate)
- ✗ Wound dressings



*Patients can search for approved drugs and medical devices at the [Register of Therapeutic Products](#)² and [Singapore Medical Device Register](#)³

3 FORMS ARE RETURNED TO ACE

Application forms should be returned to ACE by the date stated on the form. Patients can send the form directly to ACE_CEE@moh.gov.sg or to their patient organisation for collation into a combined submission. Patients can also write to ACE if they need help with the application form or have any questions.



4 SUITABLE HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES ARE PRIORITISED FOR EVALUATION

ACE reviews each application to ensure that the health technologies suggested are suitable for evaluation. Each health technology is then **ranked** in order of priority for evaluation by MOH advisory committees by considering:

- the clinical need that the health technology will address for patients
- how many patients need the health technology
- how severe the condition is that the health technology will be used for
- the benefits and disadvantages of the health technology compared to other health technologies that are already available
- how much it might cost the government to fund the health technology
- ease of introducing the health technology into the healthcare system, and
- the value that ACE could add in conducting an evaluation

The advisory committees are more likely to select health technologies for evaluation if their benefits are **plausible** and **supported by evidence**, and they help fill an **unmet clinical need** for patients.^{4,5} Topics that are **not selected** by the advisory committees will not be evaluated by ACE.



5 ACE NOTIFIES PATIENTS OF THE APPLICATION OUTCOME

ACE will advise the patient or patient organisation who submitted the application form if the health technology they suggested has been selected for evaluation, or explain why not in the event of a negative outcome.

All health technologies selected for evaluation are added to ACE's workplan. ACE will contact patient organisations once the evaluation begins to seek input from their members.



Sources

1. Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Singapore. *Process and Methods Guide for Patient Involvement*. April 2024.
2. Health Sciences Authority, *Register of Therapeutic Products*.
3. Health Sciences Authority, *Singapore Medical Device Register*.
4. Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Singapore. *Drug and Vaccine Evaluation Methods and Process Guide*. September 2023.
5. Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Singapore. *Medical Technologies Evaluation Methods and Process Guide*. March 2024.

© Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Republic of Singapore. Updated on 05 April 2024.

All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication in whole or in part in any material form is prohibited without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

To find out more about ACE, scan the QR code or visit www.ace-hta.gov.sg. You can also follow us on social media at:

