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Experience of Health Technology Assessment implementation in the educational system in Ukraine

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INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine is currently actively implementing the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) as the positive experience of European countries to determine priorities in the Ukrainian healthcare system. HTA is a scientific approach for determining the list of medicines and medical services that are expedient to finance and procure by the state at the expense of taxpayers. The need for highly qualified health technology experts to effective implementation the National reimbursement programs is a topical issue in the Ukrainian universities educational process.

At the educational point of view, health technology assessment is a rapidly evolving subject in current health care and medicine, regarding scientific development, translation into medical practice and expected benefits in patient and state outcomes. Patient organisations, government officials, pharmacists and physicians are a key stakeholder in the development and improvement of HTA process. Thus, the need to put more educational effort into this field is necessary and recommended by professional organizations, yet underrated in pharmacy curricula.

METHOD

The studies have been carried out using methods of analysis, systematization and generalizing. The main method of data collection was the analysis of the current state of HTA training in Ukraine according to scientific publications, existing networks in HTA and universities' official websites. Next step of the study was the comparison of curricula and training programs with such in leading countries of the world and forecasting further perspectives in effective implementation their best experience in Ukrainian education.

AIM/S

The purpose of this study is to qualitatively assess the prevailing preferences and characteristics of HTA educational and training initiatives in Ukraine for creating a professional environment, including high qualified experts, for writing HTA reports, working in government and participating in national and international HTA agencies.

RESULTS

It is well known fact that HTA is a multidisciplinary process that summarizes information about the medical, social, economic and ethical issues related to the use of a health technology in a systematic, transparent, unbiased, robust manner. Education and training are key elements of HTA. According to the issue it was determined the target audience who need HTA training program: Ministry of Health experts, members of tendering committees of medical institutions or formulary commissions, medical practitioners, pharmacists, patient organizations, medical and pharmaceutical graduates.

Nowadays, there are some professional and powerful resources of Ukrainian HTA educational programs and training courses, based as on National Medical Universities (NUPh, D. Halytsky LNMU, I. Horbachevsky TNMU etc.), so in Private HTA Academy. Priority of the program is focused on the modern methodology of organizing and carrying out HTA, conducting scientific search (evidence medicine, pharmaco-economic modelling, effectiveness, safety, CMA, CEA, CUA, CBA, BIA) and decision-making process.

It has been generalizing the international HTA training (educational) experience. The most common forms of education are short-term - trainings, seminars, workshops, online courses, which are held in 61 countries, including 26 European countries. Academic HTA programs (master's, PhD), including distance learning, are offered by universities in 27 countries, including 13 European ones.

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Table

Comparison of HTA Courses Availability

Types of HTA Courses	EU countries	Ukraine
Introductory HTA course	+	+
Internet-based distance learning course	+	+ *
HTA methodology	+	+
National MSc in HTA	+	+
International MSc in HTA	+	-
PhD course in HTA	+	+
HTA as part of a health economics course	+	+ *
HTA as part of an MSc in public health or health sciences	+	+ *

Note: * - initiated by private HTA-agencies and government offices.

CONCLUSION

This study has identified the need to develop a standardized competency-based educational and training program for national education establishment which are harmonized with European programs that will ensure the practice and policies that meet both the HTA standards and the broader expectations for professionalization in healthcare system.

Effective implementation progressive innovation HTA requires the involvement of highly qualified specialists, which is a promising area of development in the healthcare.

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