

## Table of contents

List of Tables.....	v
List of Figures .....	v
List of Boxes .....	v
List of abbreviations.....	vi
Summary .....	viii
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Limited resources and the need for prioritization.....	2
1.2 Evidence-based practice and health technology assessment (HTA) .....	2
1.3 The shift towards evidence-based coverage decisions for health technologies and its implications.....	3
1.4 Objective and general methodology.....	4
1.5 Chapter Outline .....	6
<i>Chapter 2: Defining health care benefit packages: how sufficientarian is current practice?</i> .....	6
<i>Chapter 3: From market access to patient access: overview of evidence-based approaches for the reimbursement and pricing of pharmaceuticals in 36 European countries</i> .....	6
<i>Chapter 4: Approaches towards published and unpublished evidence during coverage decision-making for pharmaceuticals in Europe</i> .....	7
<i>Chapter 5: Equity in Health Technology Assessment</i> .....	8
<i>Chapter 6: Overall conclusions and outlook</i> .....	8
References Chapter 1 .....	9
Chapter 2: Defining health care benefit packages - how sufficientarian is current practice? .....	10
Abstract .....	11
2.1 Introduction.....	12
2.2 Analytical Framework.....	14
2.3 How sufficientarian is current health coverage decision-making?.....	19
2.3.1 Regulation underpinning coverage decisions and sufficiency .....	19
2.3.2 Breadth of coverage.....	23
2.3.3 Depth of coverage.....	24
2.3.4 Height of coverage.....	27
2.3.5 Notable priority-setting initiatives .....	28
2.4 Conclusion .....	29
References Chapter 2 .....	32
Chapter 3: From market access to patient access - overview of evidence-based approaches for the reimbursement and pricing of pharmaceuticals in 36 European countries .....	34
Abstract .....	35
3.1 Introduction.....	36
3.2 Methods.....	37
3.2.1 Rationale.....	37
3.2.2 Data collection.....	37

3.3 Results .....	40
3.3.1 Institutions included in analysis and information availability.....	40
3.3.2 Decision-makers responsible for pharmaceutical coverage.....	40
3.3.3 Remit of coverage decision-makers .....	48
3.3.4 The assessment process .....	48
3.3.5 The appraisal process .....	48
3.3.6 Outcomes of appraisal and reimbursement restrictions .....	49
3.3.7 Re-evaluation of pharmaceuticals .....	49
3.3.8 Transparency of process.....	49
3.4 Discussion .....	49
3.5 Conclusions.....	52
References Chapter 3 .....	53
Chapter 4: Approaches towards published and unpublished evidence during coverage decision-making for pharmaceuticals in Europe .....	55
Abstract .....	56
4.1 Introduction.....	57
4.2 Methods.....	57
4.2.1 Rationale.....	57
4.2.2 Document analysis.....	58
4.2.3 Survey of relevant institutions.....	59
4.2.4 Result synthesis and presentation .....	60
4.3 Results.....	60
4.3.1 Information yielded by the searches and survey response rate .....	60
4.3.2 Information retrieval .....	61
4.3.3 Evaluation of evidence quality and general assessment of risk of bias .....	62
4.3.4 Approach towards unpublished information.....	62
4.3.5 Specific methods for identification, analysis and presentation of unpublished information.....	64
4.3.6 Impact of incomplete evidence on decision-making.....	65
4.3.7 Management of confidentiality and transparency.....	65
4.4 Discussion .....	68
Limitations .....	70
4.5 Conclusions.....	70
References Chapter 4 .....	72
Chapter 5: Equity in Health Technology Assessment .....	75
Chapter 5.1: Gender issues in Health Technology Assessment - a first look at current approaches from agencies around the world.....	76
Abstract .....	77
5.1.1 Introduction.....	78
5.1.2 Methodology .....	78
5.1.3 Results.....	79

<i>Social perspective in agency mission statements</i> .....	79
<i>Priority setting and the inclusion of social aspects and gender</i> .....	80
<i>Social perspective and gender in the methodological approach of agencies</i> .....	80
<i>Agency initiatives on gender and equity</i> .....	81
5.1.4 Discussion .....	81
5.1.5 Policy implications and suggestions .....	83
References Chapter 5.1 .....	84
Chapter 5.2: Considering equity in HTA - an exploratory analysis of agency practices .....	85
Abstract .....	86
5.2.1 Introduction .....	87
5.2.2 Methods.....	89
<i>Composition of the agency pool</i> .....	89
<i>Document selection</i> .....	89
<i>Information extraction and analysis</i> .....	90
5.2.3 Results.....	90
<i>Included agencies</i> .....	90
<i>Equity considerations in methodological guides</i> .....	91
<i>Evidence from HTA reports</i> .....	93
5.2.4 Discussion .....	96
<i>Strengths and limitations</i> .....	98
5.2.5 Policy implications and recommendations.....	99
5.2.6 Conclusion .....	101
References Chapter 5.2 .....	102
Chapter 6: Overall conclusions and outlook.....	104
References Chapter 6 .....	110
Appendix .....	111