

Company-led submissions for funding consideration in Singapore: an updated analysis

Jiamin ONG¹, Lydia LOKE¹, Gloria Wan Hui TAN¹, Grace WONG¹, Liang LIN¹

¹Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE), Ministry of Health, Singapore

Introduction

- Since 2021, companies have been able to request for certain treatments to be evaluated for funding consideration in Singapore via the company-led submission (CLS) process. Companies will provide evidence submissions to the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) to support Health Technology Assessments (HTAs), thereby informing funding recommendations by the Ministry of Health Drug Advisory Committee.
- The CLS process enables treatments to be evaluated close to the anticipated date of regulatory approval and expedite funding considerations, to improve patient access to clinically necessary treatments.
- This analysis presents the CLS outcomes and timelines using updated data from 2023 and 2024. The treatments include cancer and non-cancer drugs, as well as cell, tissue and gene therapy products.

Methods

- This retrospective analysis included 17 CLS topics reviewed in 2023 and 2024. Descriptive statistical methods were used to report the Committee's HTA recommendations and the timelines from (i) submission to first HTA recommendation, and (ii) regulatory approval to first HTA recommendation.
- Timelines were compared between parallel submissions (concurrent with regulatory review) and sequential submissions (post-regulatory approval), and benchmarked against timelines in reference overseas jurisdictions (Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom).

Results

- Of the 17 CLS topics, 11 (65%) received positive funding recommendations. Six topics (35%) received negative recommendations, but 5 of these are undergoing resubmissions.

Table 1: Overview of CLS topics in Singapore

	2023	2024	Overall*
Number of topics reviewed	6	11	17
Median time from submission to first HTA recommendation, days	172	163	169
Median time from regulatory approval to first HTA recommendation, days	279	230	277

*Across both years (2023 and 2024)

- The median time from submission to first HTA recommendation was 169 days (Table 1). The median time from regulatory approval to first HTA recommendation was 277 days. These timelines were within range of overseas jurisdictions (Figure 1).

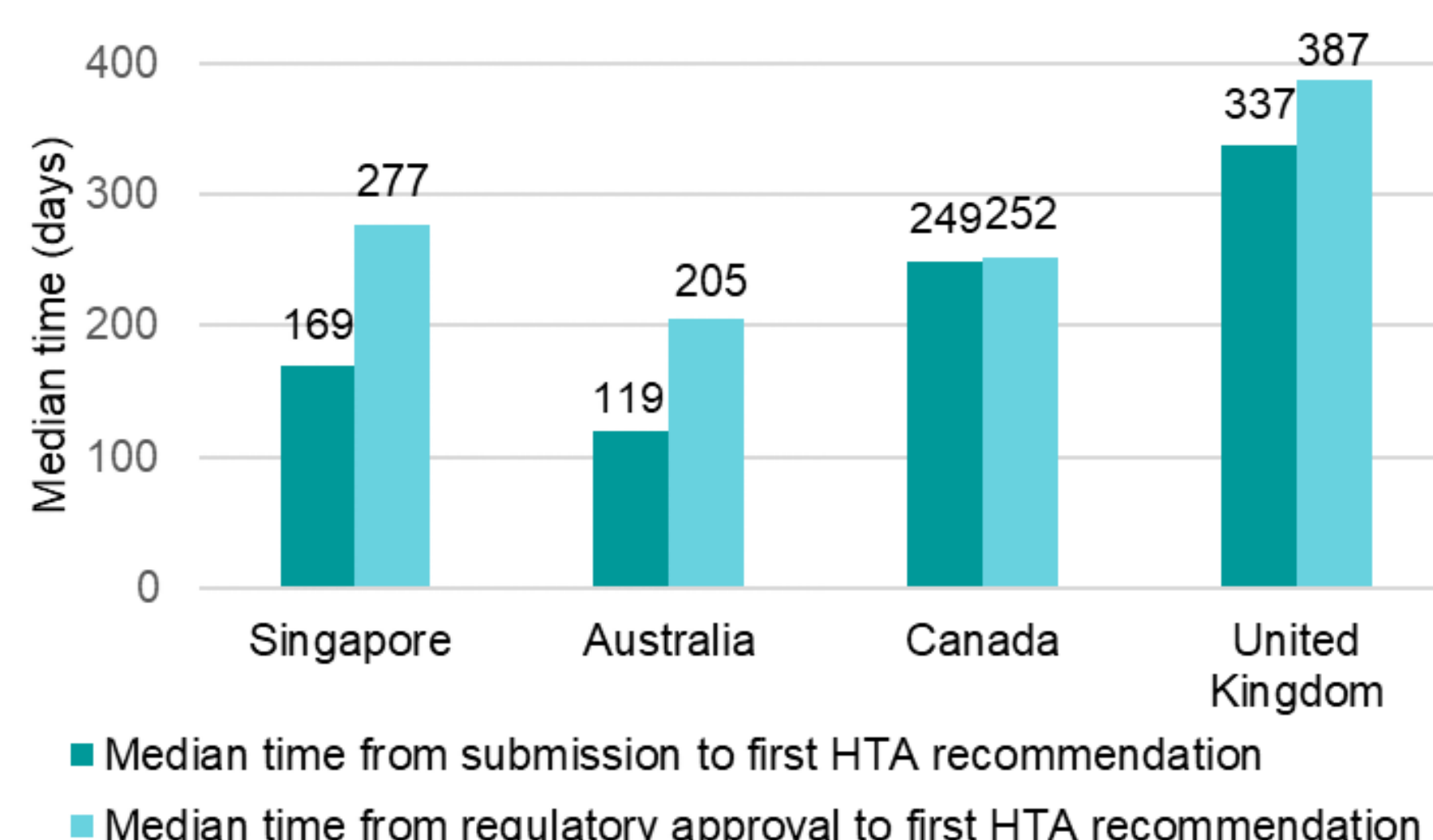


Figure 1: HTA recommendation timelines across jurisdictions

- Although the number of CLS topics nearly doubled from 6 in 2023 to 11 in 2024, timelines over the two-year period remained similar to the first year (Table 1).
- Fewer topics underwent parallel submissions than sequential submissions (6 vs. 11 topics). However, the parallel submission approach was more efficient, cutting the median time between regulatory approval and first HTA recommendation by 205 days (Table 2).

Table 2: Time from regulatory approval to first HTA recommendation by submission type

	Parallel	Sequential
Number of topics reviewed	6	11
Median time from regulatory approval to first HTA recommendation, days	86	291

Conclusion

- Funding recommendation timelines for CLS in Singapore were comparable with overseas benchmarks.
- Future efforts will focus on refining the CLS process to ensure timely reimbursement reviews. Companies will also be encouraged to provide parallel submissions, where appropriate, to expedite patient access to clinically necessary treatments.