

Development, Registration & Market Access of Orphan Drugs in EU

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What are Orphan Drugs?

EMA Definition: A medicine for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of a life-threatening or chronically debilitating condition that is rare (**affecting not more than five in 10,000 people in the European Union**) or where the medicine is unlikely to generate sufficient profit to justify research and development costs.





Development & Registration

Generating necessary clinical data in rare diseases is difficult....



Low patient numbers make conducting clinical trials challenging

National & regional collaborations is key

...and low economic returns for Orphan Drugs could hinder investment in research

- Cost of developing new medicines relatively fixed, regardless of number of patients it will be used to treat
- Average costs of developing a new drug = \$1.4bn
- Including earnings investors forego during 10+ years development takes bring cost to \$2.6bn

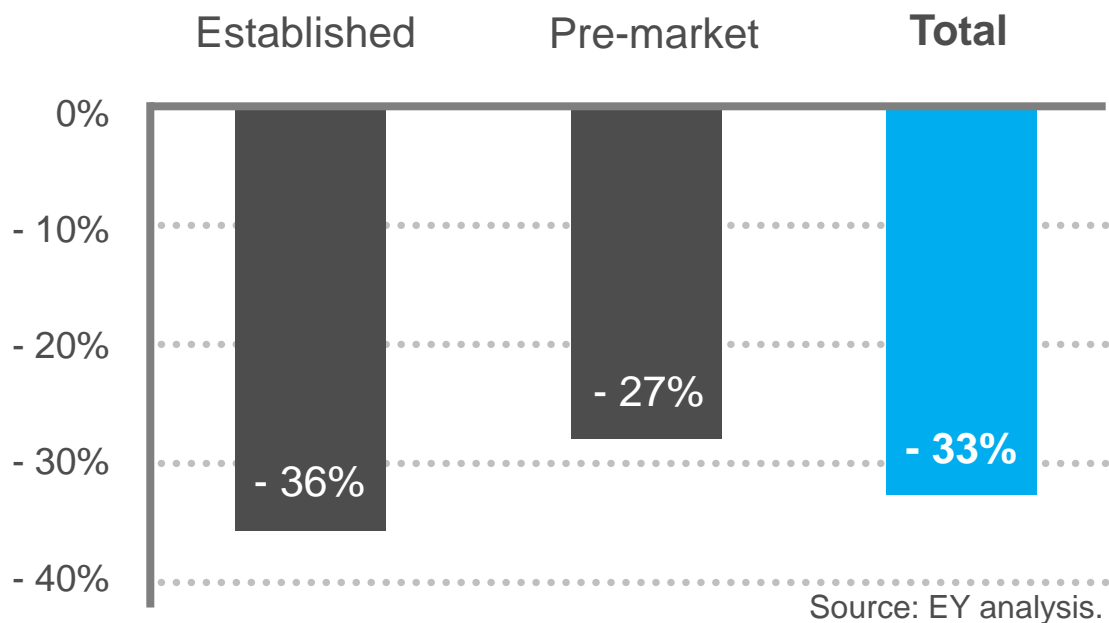


Incentivising investment into rare diseases drug research in the EU



Evidence suggests incentives are working – data from USA

Figure ES-1: Estimated decline in investment in orphan drugs by type of developer under potential ODTC repeal



Market Access

We can categorise major EU HTA methodologies into two distinct categories

HTA systems that combine clinical and economic outcomes (e.g. cost/QALY)

HTA systems that primarily evaluate the clinical value >> pricing negotiation

NICE/SMC (UK)



IQWiG (Ger)



TLV/SBU (Swe)



HAS (Fra)



PBAC (Aus)



AIFA (Ita)



CADTH (Can)



AOTMiT (Pol)



Some markets have specific cost-effectiveness thresholds (e.g. UK, Pol, SK)

Quality Adjusted Life Year

The number of years of life left for a group of patients following a treatment, adjusted for the quality of life during those years

EXAMPLE

Drug X provides a median OS 2 years greater than comparator in a clinical trial

Due to side effects & disease symptoms, quality of life on scale of 0-1 is calculated as 0.5

QALYs gained = 1

Problems with Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs)

Cost-effectiveness analysis using QALYs suffers many limitations as a tool to improve patient-centered health care



INCOMPLETE: Not designed to capture many important sources of value to patients, the health care system, and the wider economy



UNRELIABLE: Heavily dependent on the measurement instrument being used, which produces **inconsistent and unreliable results**



THEORETICAL: Intended as a **theoretical tool for academic researchers**, not for decisions that impact actual patient lives



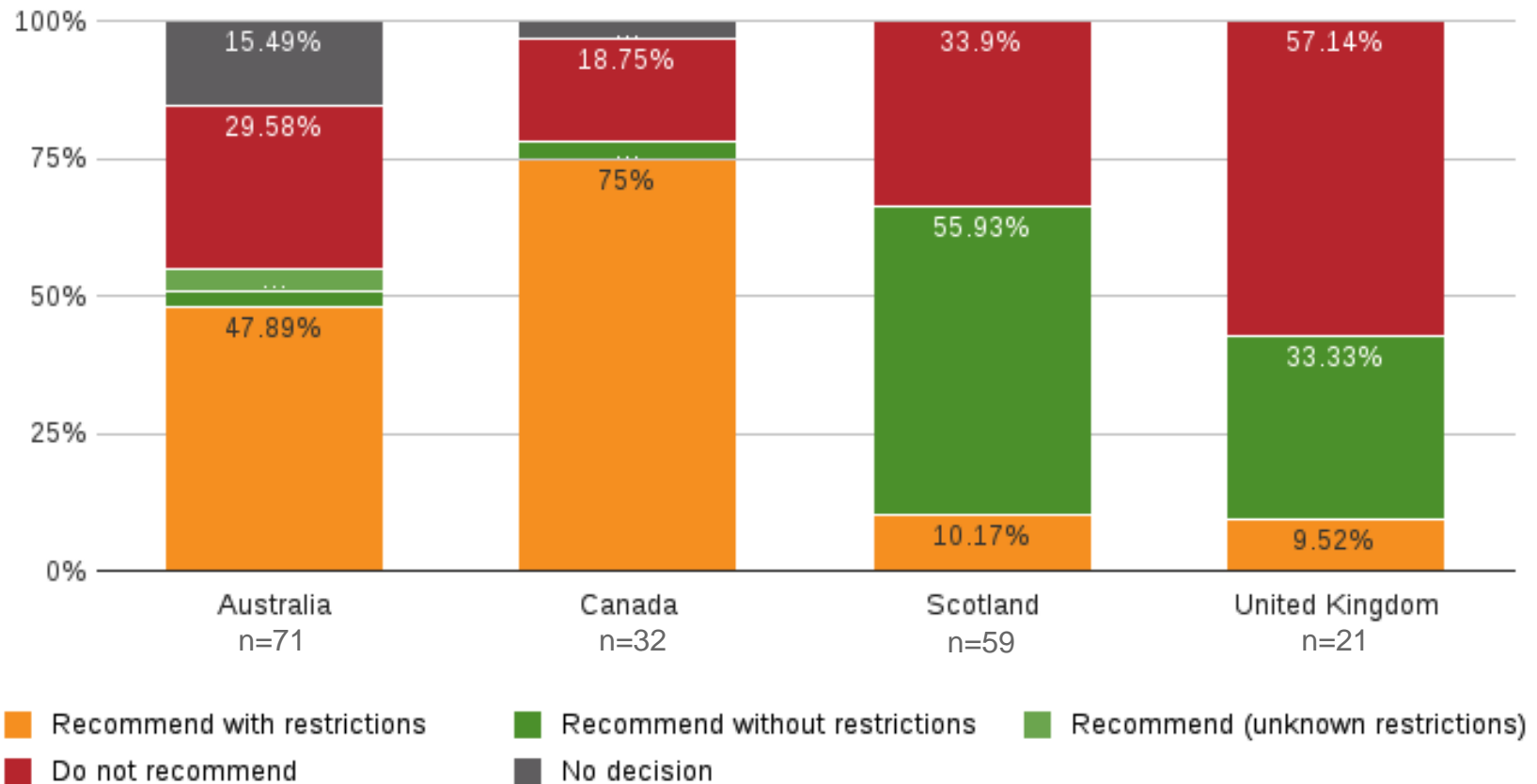
NOT PATIENT-CENTERED: Developed from population averages, which **ignore the health care needs and preferences of individual patients**



DISCRIMINATORY: Widely acknowledged by experts to **discriminate against people with disabilities or pre-existing conditions**

Impact of low, fixed cost-effectiveness thresholds in Oncology

Considering more criteria than cost-effectiveness alone & avoiding low thresholds leads to more oncology drugs being made available



Rare diseases face strong obstacles to reimbursement where cost-effectiveness thresholds are in place

Difficulties
in
generating
sufficient
clinical data

Lack of
innovation paradox
– harder to prove
cost-effectiveness
in disease areas
where old, generic
drugs are still
standard of care

Difficulty in
health-economic
modelling &
assessing the
cost-effectiveness
+ meeting
thresholds

Doesn't take
broader
societal and
individual value
delivered given
rarity of
disease

HTA systems that primarily evaluate the clinical value for use in a pricing negotiation

A set of criteria, often including cost effectiveness, clinical benefit and severity of disease are used to rate a drug. Rating scale used in Germany:

A Major extent of benefit

B Considerable extent of benefit

C Minor extent of benefit

D Not quantifiable extent of benefit

E No additional benefit shown

F Benefits less than alternative

Rating then used in pricing negotiation but how exactly it relates to final price can lack transparency

Different HTA provisions made for orphan drugs

No Cost-effectiveness evaluation required if no alternative exists

NEL, IT & DE

Some form of safety net mechanism if drug deemed not cost-effective

DK, FR, UK, FI, NOR, SP, AUT, BE

Extent to which rare disease drugs are reimbursed varies and safety net mechanisms can face criticism for a lack of transparency & consistency of decision making



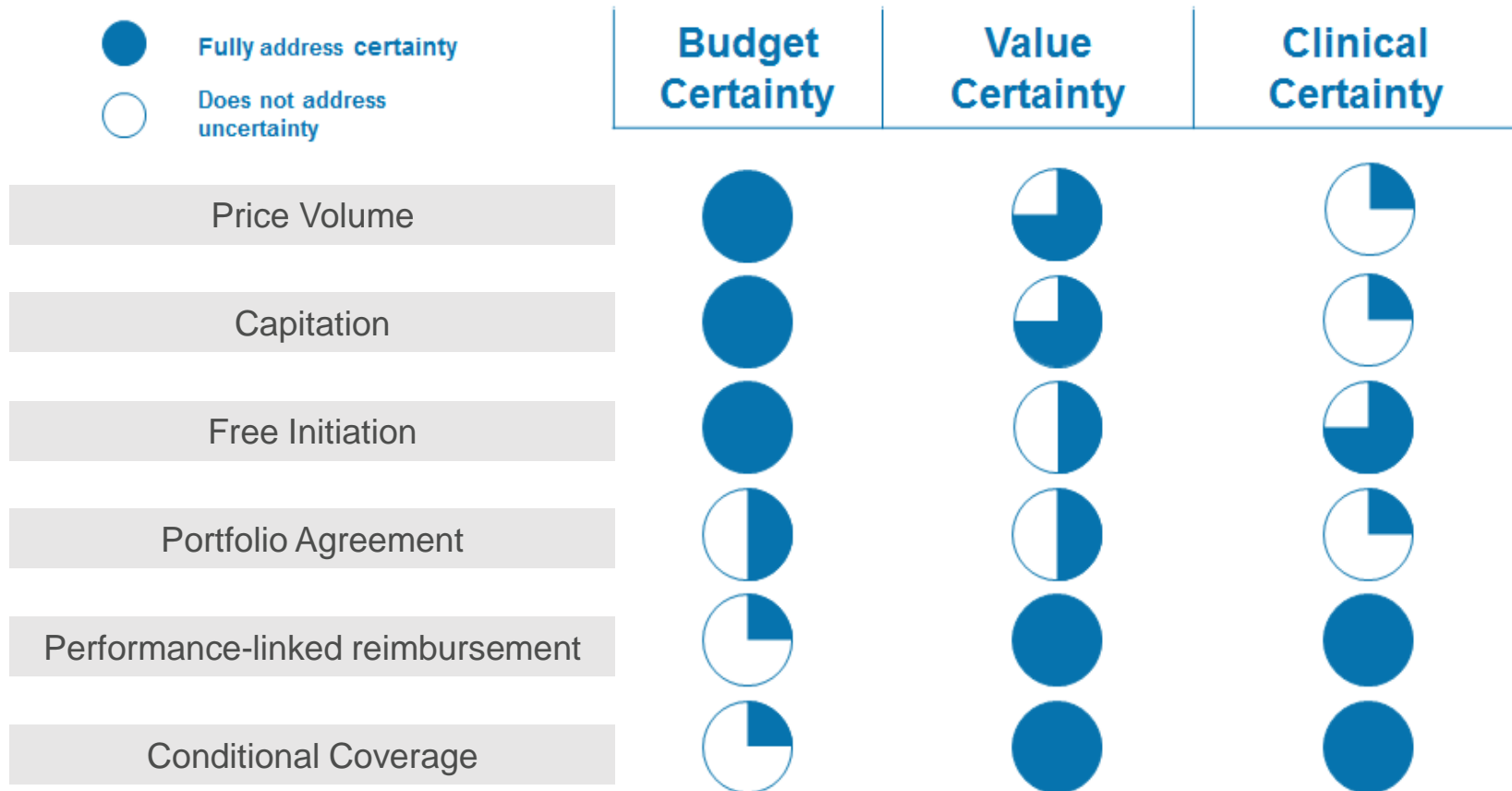
An arrangement between a manufacturer & payer that enables reimbursement for a drug subject to specific conditions



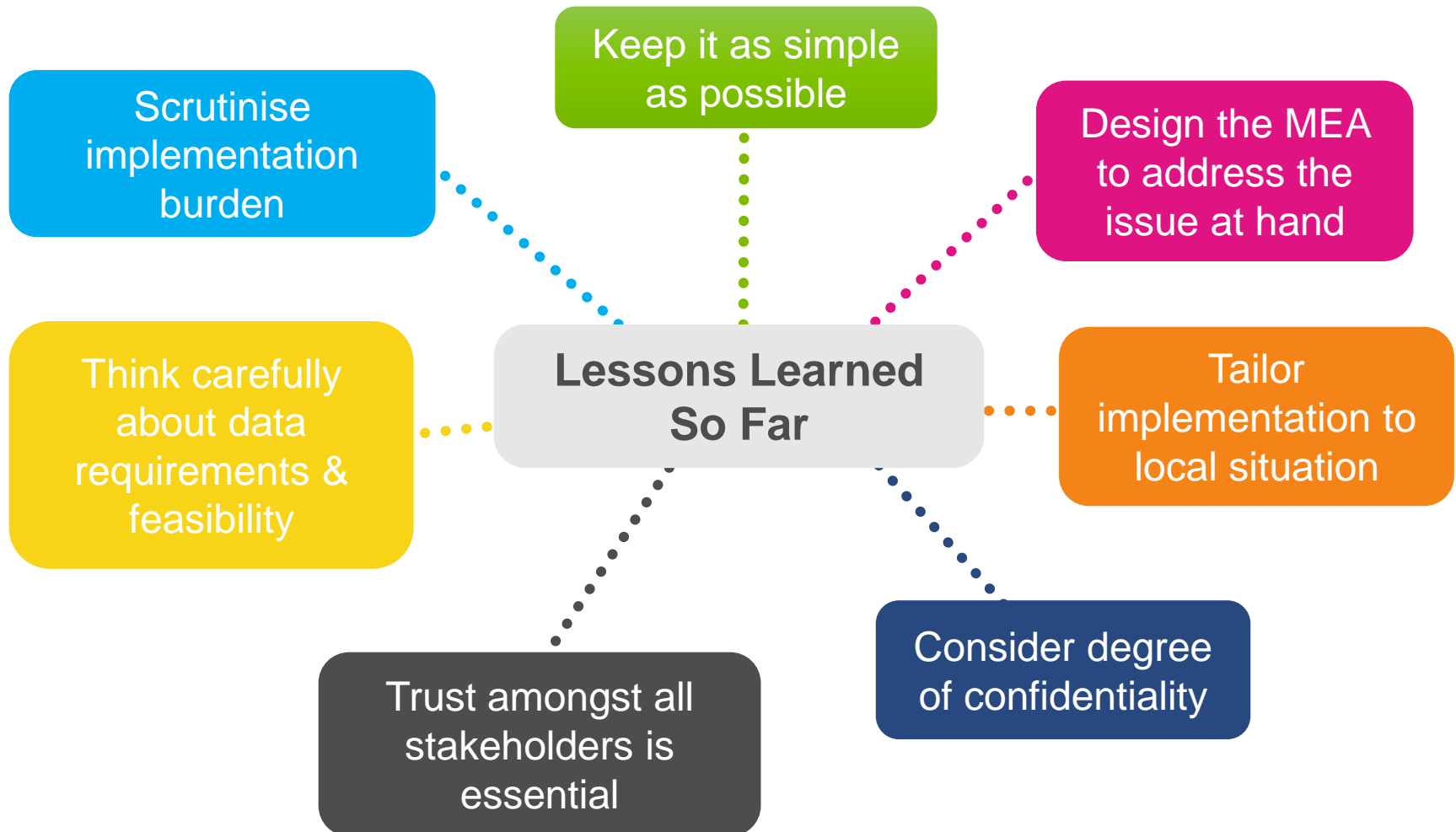
Use a variety of financial or patient outcomes-based mechanisms to address uncertainties about the performance of a drug

Managed Entry Agreements provide interesting options.....

The relationship between the type of scheme and the underlying cause of uncertainty

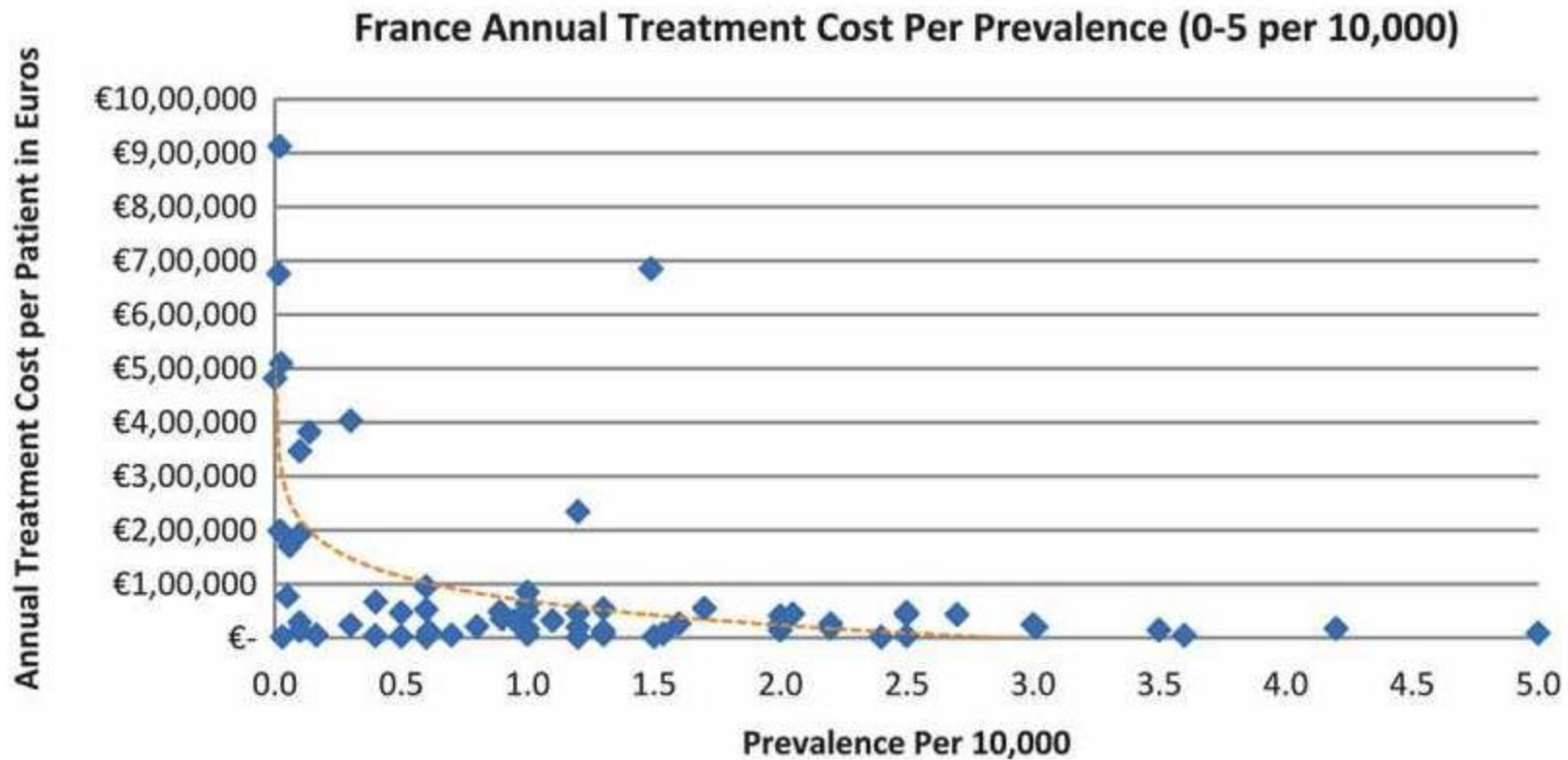


... but must be considered carefully by all stakeholders



Is Rarity valued by EU Payers? Yes, to some extent

study assessed relationship between the prevalence of rare diseases and the annual treatment cost of orphan drugs in selected EU countries



Conclusions

Patients deserve all of our best efforts

Given high unmet patient need, all stakeholders need to collaborate to find ways to accelerate development, registration & access to new drugs globally

Such work underway – EMA & EU Healthcare Payers met recently

HTA considering broader factors than just cost-effectiveness will lead to greater access to new drugs for rare disease patients