How can Health Technology Assessment (HTA) contribute to quality of care?

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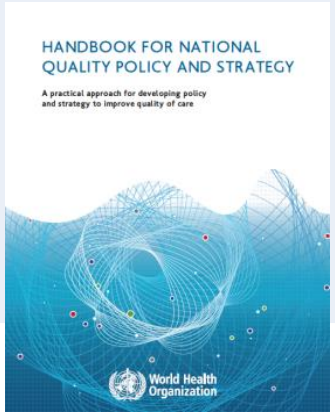
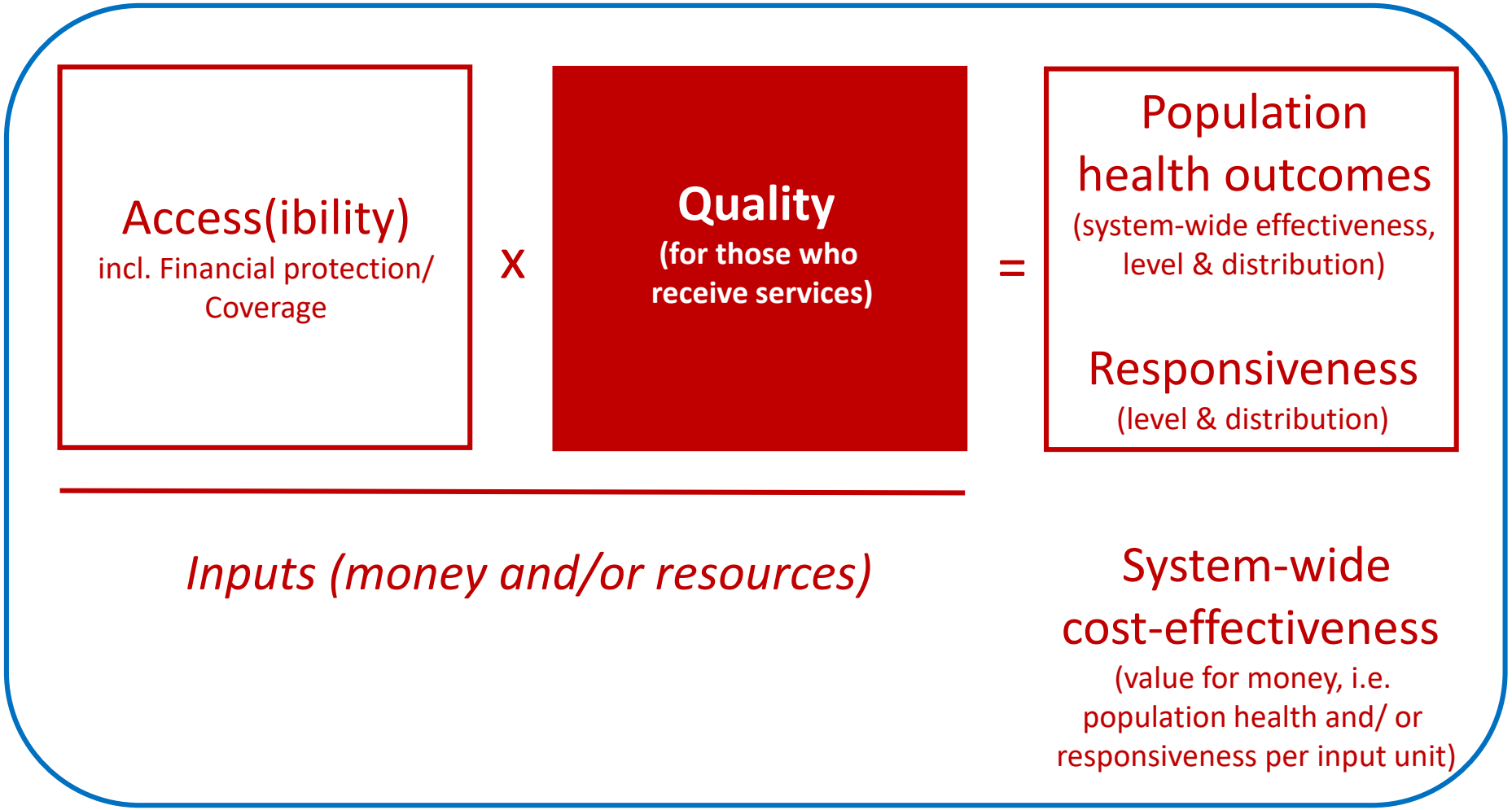
2002 - 2017
Health Care Management

What is quality of care?

Institute of Medicine, IOM (1990)	Quality of care is the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge.
Council of Europe (1997)	Quality of care is the degree to which the treatment dispensed increases the patient's chances of achieving the desired results and diminishes the chances of undesirable results, having regard to the current state of knowledge.
European Commission (2010)	[Good quality care is] health care that is effective, safe and responds to the needs and preference of patients. "Other dimensions of quality of care, such as efficiency, access and equity are seen as being part of a wider debate and are being addressed in other fora"
WHO (2018) 	Quality health services across the world should be: • **Effective** • **Safe** • **People-centred** In order to realize the benefits of quality health care, health services must be timely […], equitable […], integrated […], and efficient […]

Quality vs. other objectives of health systems



Health system performance

How the book sorts and looks at the various strategies

Chapter structure	*Settings standards for structures and inputs*	*Steering and monitoring quality of processes*	*Leveraging processes and outcomes of care to assure improvements*
(1) What are the characteristics of the strategy? **(2) What is being done in European countries?** **(3) What do we know about the strategy's (cost-) effectiveness?** **(4) How can the strategy be implemented?** **(5) Conclusions: lessons for policy-makers**	• Regulation of **health professionals** • Regulation of **health technologies**: Health Technology Assessment **TODAY** • Regulation of **healthcare facilities** • External institutional strategies: **accreditation, certification, supervision**	• **Clinical Guidelines** **MARCH 15** • **Audit & Feedback** • **Patient Safety** Strategies • **Clinical Pathways**	• **Public Reporting** • **Financial Incentives ("Pay-for-quality", P4Q)** **MARCH 22**

How HTA compares to other strategies which focus on setting standards

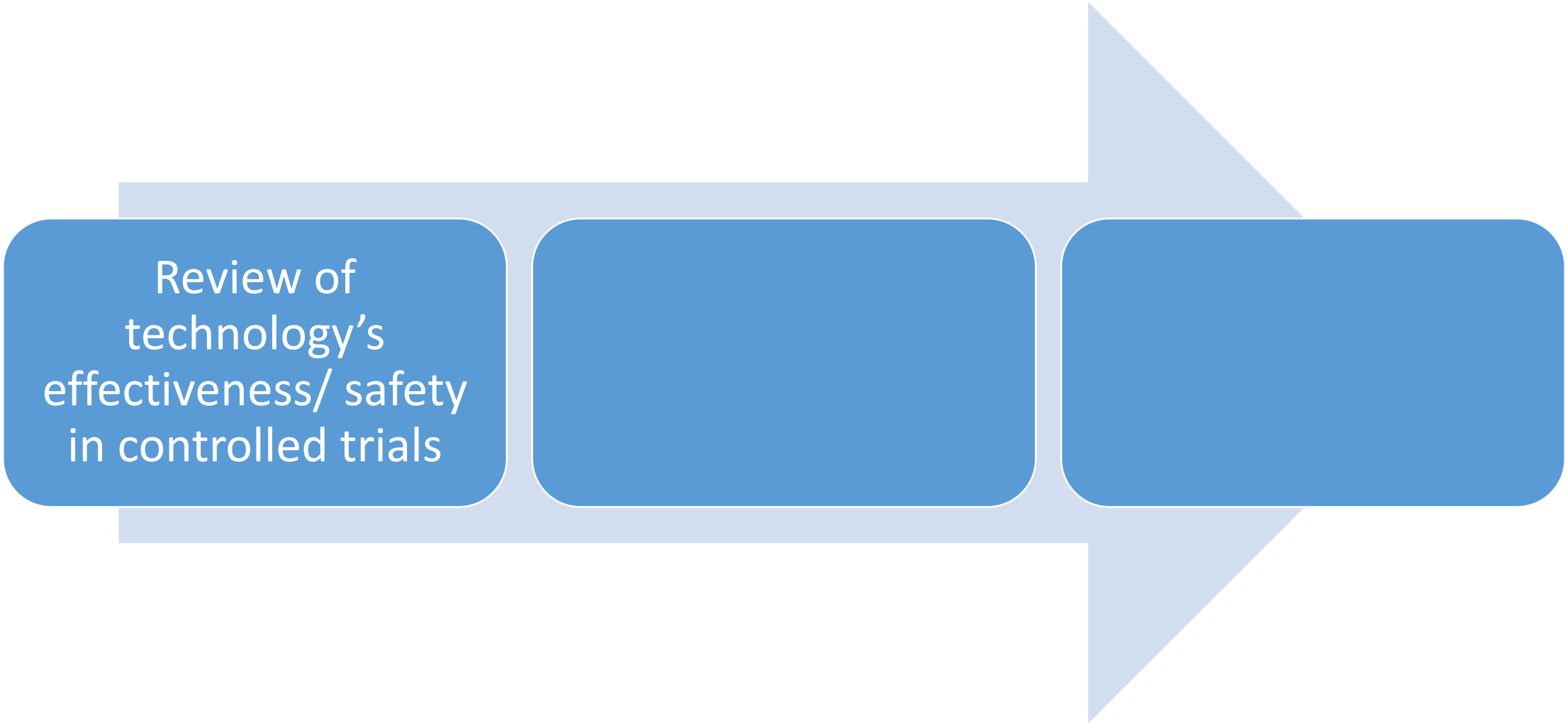
	Characteristics	Implementation in Europe	Effectiveness
Regulating the Input: Professionals	A wide range of standards for professionals, including regulating entry requirements, continuous professional development…	Most countries have entry requirements and professional development requirements (for physicians and nurses), requirements are strongly influenced by EU regulations.	Very limited evidence on effectiveness of different parts of the strategy.
Regulating the Input: Health Technology Assessment (HTA)	… provides evidence base for decision-making on (cost-) effective and safe technologies.	National legal frameworks for HTA are in place in 26 Member State, mostly using HTA for pharmaceuticals but in 20 countries also for medical devices. Only in 18 countries, HTA agencies have more than 10 full-time staff and only in 4 countries they have more than 100 full time staff.	No formal studies assessing effectiveness. Effectiveness depends on rigor of applied HTA methods and process of implementing HTA results.
Regulating the Input: Healthcare facilities	Setting standards for the structures of care that will lead to improved effectiveness, safety, and patient-centredness.	Some European wide standards for buildings and construction material apply. Most countries have general building standards. Some countries (e.g. DE, FI, UK) have health care specific standards.	Often inconclusive but some evidence exists that single-bed rooms, effective ventilation systems, good acoustic environment, nature distractions and daylight etc. are effective.
External assessment strategies	Accreditation, certification, and supervision encourage the compliance of healthcare organizations with published standards through monitoring.	Widely implemented in Europe. Most countries have market entry requirements (supervision), coupled with certification and accreditation strategies. There is no overview of certified/accredited institutions in different countries.	Little robust evidence that supports their effectiveness, no evidence on cost-effectiveness.

Questions regarding a technology's effectiveness and safety

- Is it safe to use (in the short term)?
- Does it function in healthy?
- Does it function in ill persons?
- Does it work compared to doing nothing?
- Does it work better compared with an alternative (study conditions)?
- Does it work better compared with an alternative under real life conditions?
- Is it cost-effective (vs. alternative)?
- Is it as (cost-)effective everywhere?
- By whom should it be used to be effective?
- Is it safe to use (in the long run)?

Phase I
"clinical investigation"
Phase II
uncontrolled one-armed studies
Phase III
controlled studies
pharma-ceutical licensing
medical device certification
HTA
vigilance monitoring/ product registries

The “quality proposition” of HTA



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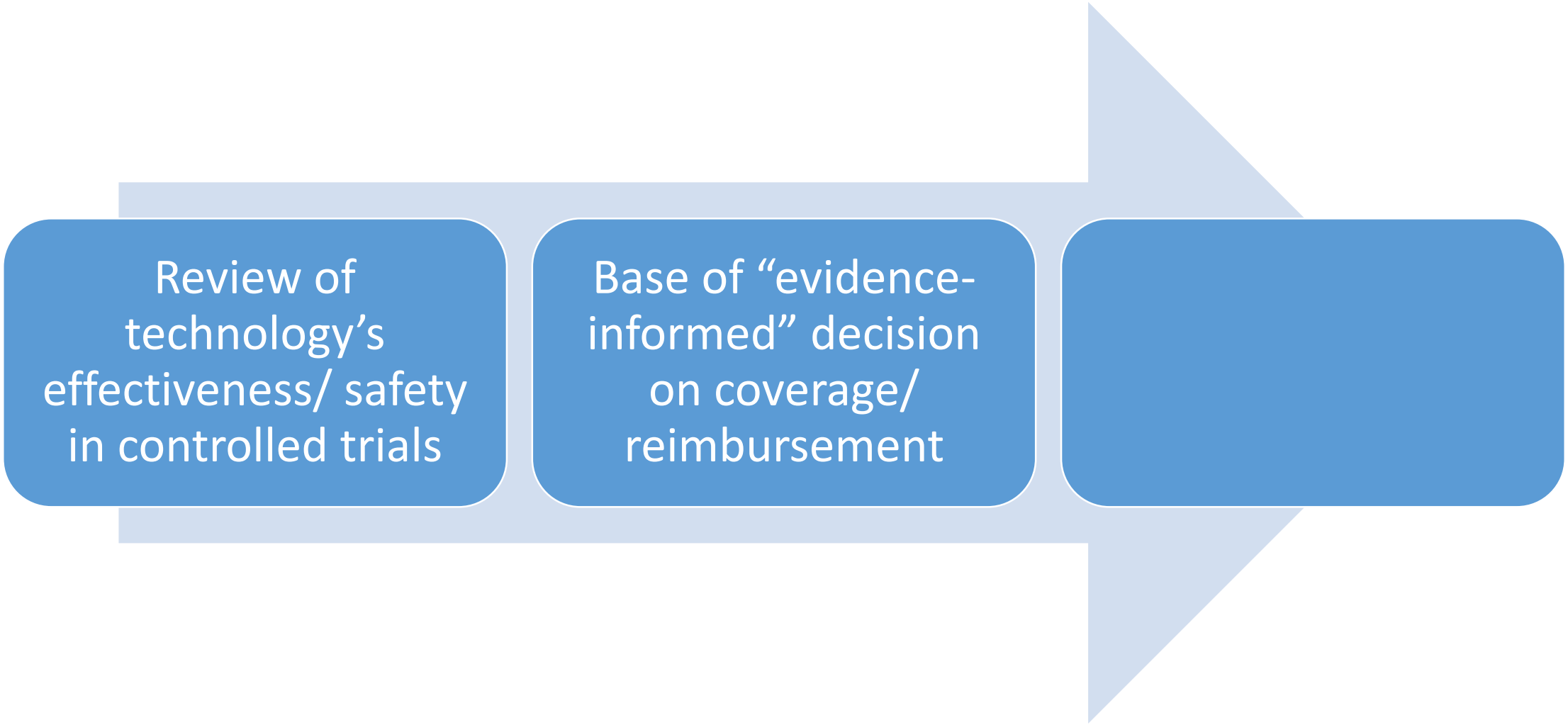

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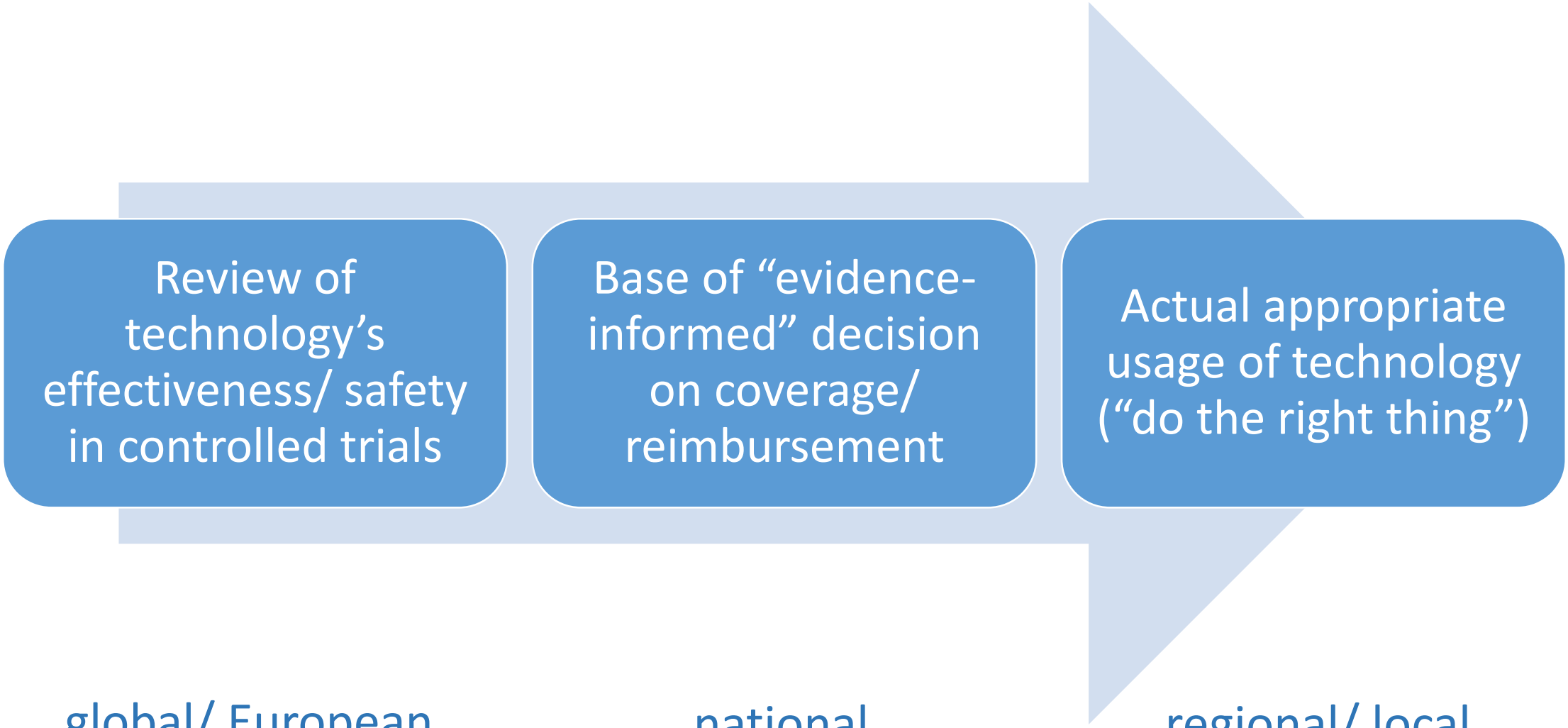

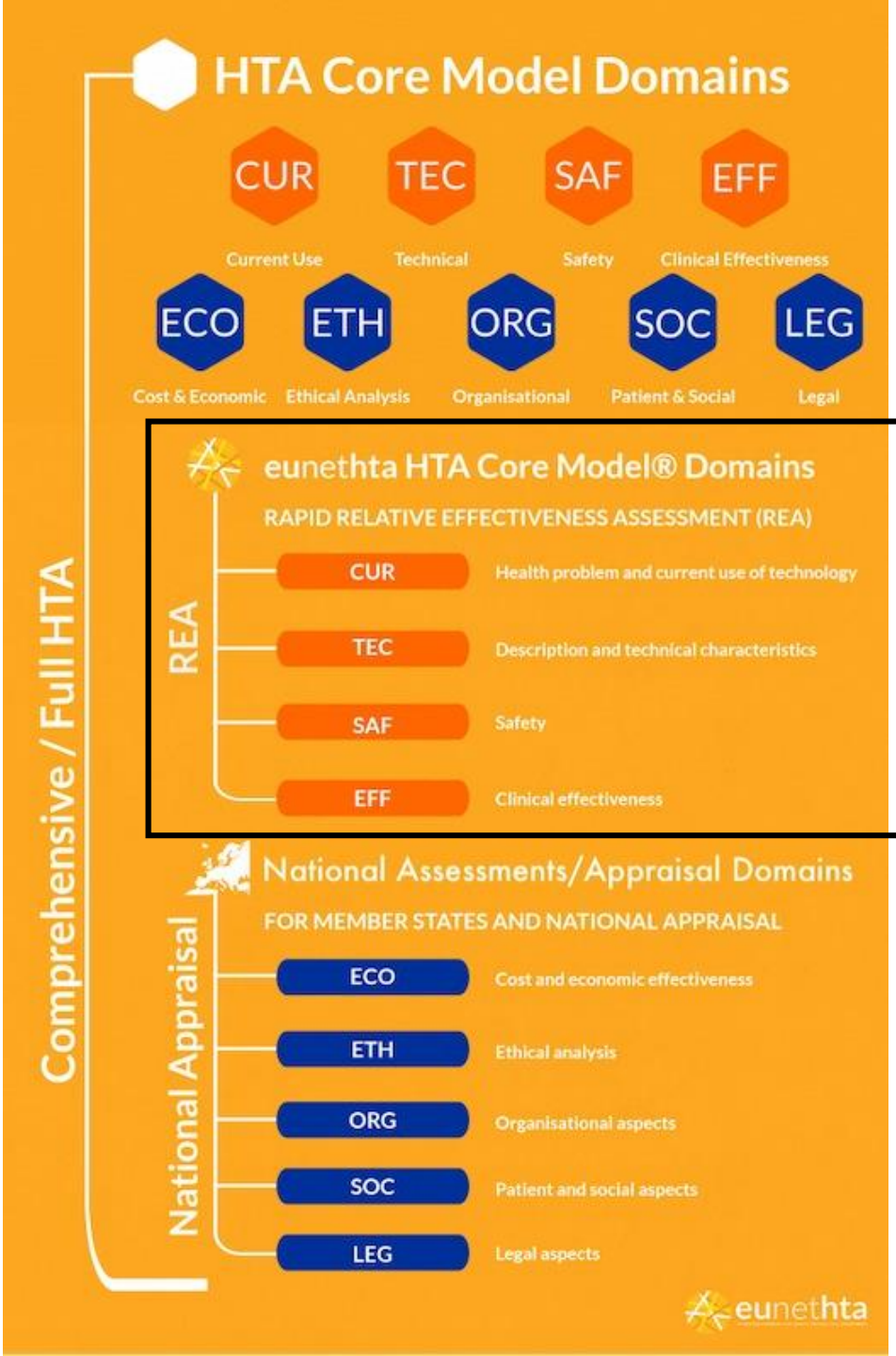

If the HTA base is “global/ European”, then why not do create it together?

Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 (15th Dec 2021) …

- creates “Joint Clinical Assessments” for pharmaceuticals (licensed by EMA) and high-risk medical devices, which have to be taken into account in national decision-making
- offers Joint Scientific Consultations to technology developers
- prepares annual reports on emerging health technologies