# Health Care System Information Sharing: A Step Toward Better Health

## Globally Abstract

In the face of the ever rising health care costs and declining resources, efficient and equitable health care technology reimbursement systems, based on robust health technology assessment (HTA) including economic evaluations, are vital for a sustainable health care. However, globally, HTA is not adequately utilized in health care reimbursement decisions. In most regions, it is still in its nascent phase. The use of HTA is hindered by the presence of fragmented reimbursement systems at both the national and regional levels as well as the lack of necessary resources and knowledge. Transparency and sharing of country-specific reimbursement system information is an important "first step" to improve the efficiency and fairness of health care globally [1,2]. Although efforts such as the EUnetHTA Joint Action [3] are underway to improve information sharing and harmonize HTA across countries, attempts to standardize the HTA requirements and processes are still in their early phase. In contrast, during the last two decades, there has been much progress in the standardization and harmonization of the regulatory process around the world through the efforts of the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use [4], the Global Harmonization Task Force [5], the European Commission [6], the European Medicines Agency [7], and the World Health Organization [1,2,8,9]. Finding information on the reimbursement systems of different countries is challenging. Barriers such as different languages, lack of transparency, fragmentation of the available

information, and limited resources impede the information flow. To answer this unmet need, the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), through its members and ISPOR regional chapters, has developed publicly accessible information on country-specific decision-making processes for regulatory approval, reimbursement, and economic evaluation of health care technologies. The information is accessible through the Webbased ISPOR Global Health Care Systems Road Map (ISPOR Road Map) (http://www.ispor.org/HTARoadMaps/Default.asp) and the ISPOR Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines Around The World (ISPOR PE) (http://www.ispor.org/PEguidelines/index.asp).