

## Living Reviews and Health Technology Assessments: FAQs

### ? What is a Health Technology Assessment (HTA)?

HTAs are documents that inform regulatory agencies on whether to permit the commercial use (e.g., marketing) of a drug, device or other technology. Depending on the country, the HTA may require a **systematic literature review** (SLR).

### ? What is the process of an SLR and why is it important for HTAs?

The critical appraisal of current research (Search, Screening, Data Extraction and Comparison/Evaluation) conducted in an SLR is crucial for HTAs to account for reasons of health, safety, economical outcomes, etc.

### ? Are Systematic Literature Reviews (SLRs) required for HTA submission?

SLR requirements for HTA submission vary across the world:

Table 1. Checklist for Submission to Nine HTA Bodies

Submission Requirement	Australia	Canada	England and Wales	France	Germany	Ireland	Scotland	Sweden	Wales
	PBAC	CADTH	NICE STA	HAS	G-BA	NCPE	SMC	TLV	AWMSG
SLR of clinical data for the technology and its comparators	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓, if no head-to-head trials available	✗
Critical appraisal of RCTs and non-RCTs	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
SLR of economic models for technology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Critical appraisal of economic models	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
SLR of utility data	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
SLR of resource use and cost data	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗

✓ = required; ✗ = not required or no guidance provided. RCT = randomised controlled trial; SLR = systematic literature review; STA = single technology appraisal.

### ? What is the best way to conduct SLRs to meet the various HTA agency and payer requirements?

Clinical SLRs are required by 8/9 of the HTA agencies in [Table 1](#). The best way to conduct a clinical review is by using **Nested Knowledge**– clinical searches automatically update to keep track of changes and all data is housed in one place for reference at any time. This gives you the most comprehensive, up-to-date **living review** for the highest chances of success in your HTA submission.

### ? What is a living review and how will it help with HTA submissions?

A living review uses AI-powered automations to keep data up-to-date, save time and increase efficiency. This allows the review process to be simplified and manageable allowing more time to be dedicated to other parts of the HTA. Living reviews are conducted using Nested Knowledge.