

# Action Guide for PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION LEADERS



Professional associations play an important role in health technology assessment (HTA) practice by establishing best practices, guidelines, and standards; providing training and mentorship; and ensuring high-quality, ethical HTA conduct (in HTA, this includes organizations such as [ISPOR](#), [ASHE](#), [AcademyHealth](#), [AdvaMed](#), [Medical Device Innovation Consortium](#), and [PhRMA](#)). These core functions represent accountability mechanisms to incentivize the practice changes necessary for equity-centered HTA. Leaders and membership within these associations have opportunities – and an imperative – to lead the way in making HTA a tool for advancing equity.

## Professional association leadership actions to center equity in HTA:

- Update HTA best practice standards, guidance, and training to emphasize partnerships and co-creation with patients and caregivers.
- Highlight through standards and training the importance of engaging patients and caregivers who are representative of communities likely impacted by an HTA, especially communities experiencing persistent health inequities.
- Share best practices on compensation for and co-authorship with patient and caregiver partners. Collaborate with patient organizations to establish fair market rates for compensation.
- Provide equity skills training to researchers conducting HTA.
- Design training in partnership with patient organizations; individuals who bring expertise in equity for different populations (e.g., by race/ethnicity, culture, disability status); and patients and caregivers representing marginalized communities.
- Transparently report demographic composition of membership, committees, and leadership positions.
- Provide additional mentorship and peer support for individuals entering the HTA field who identify as part of communities that experience persistent health inequities and/or are underrepresented in health research.
- Make the case for how a career in HTA offers opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds. Tailor for specific communities underrepresented in the HTA workforce.



## Resource Spotlight: Tools for Professional Association Leaders

- The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's (PCORI) [methodology standards associated with patient-centeredness](#), including engaging people representative of the population of interest.
- The [Equity and Inclusion Guiding Engagement Principles](#) developed by PCORI's Advisory Panel on Patient Engagement.
- In its [Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards \(CHEERS\)](#) (updated 2022), the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) provides guidance on reporting the process and impact of patient and caregiver engagement in health economic analyses and research.
- AcademyHealth offers recommendations for [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Health Services and Policy Research](#), including diversifying the workforce and integrating equity practices throughout publishing. These recommendations can serve as an example for similar efforts in health economics.

