

BEING SPECIFIC ABOUT ANALYSIS PRE-SPECIFICATION

challenges and opportunities in the context of EU HTA

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Pre-specification is well understood in regulatory setting, where details of statistical analyses are finalized in SAP before breaking the blind. This is not yet mandated for HTA.

EUnetHTA METHODS GUIDELINES



“...it is required that all confounders and effect modifiers relevant for adjustment are measured and that the model and covariate selection strategies for adjustment are prespecified and based upon transparent criteria¹”

“This means that a particular research question (the PICO) is prespecified for a given assessment¹”

Recent informal survey among HTA ESIG members suggests²:

- Different interpretations of pre-specification across companies
- Pre-specification outside of the CSR SAP is not uncommon
- Limited experience with how authorities perceive evidentiary value

Where, when and how to pre-specify?

Is EU HTA JCA a good opportunity to become specific about ‘pre-specification for HTA’?

Can we learn from existing pre-specification/ pre-analysis plan concepts in the pharma sector e.g. CSR, economic research?

SOME DRIVERS OF PERCEIVED EVIDENTIARY VALUE OF ‘PRE-SPECIFICATION FOR HTA’

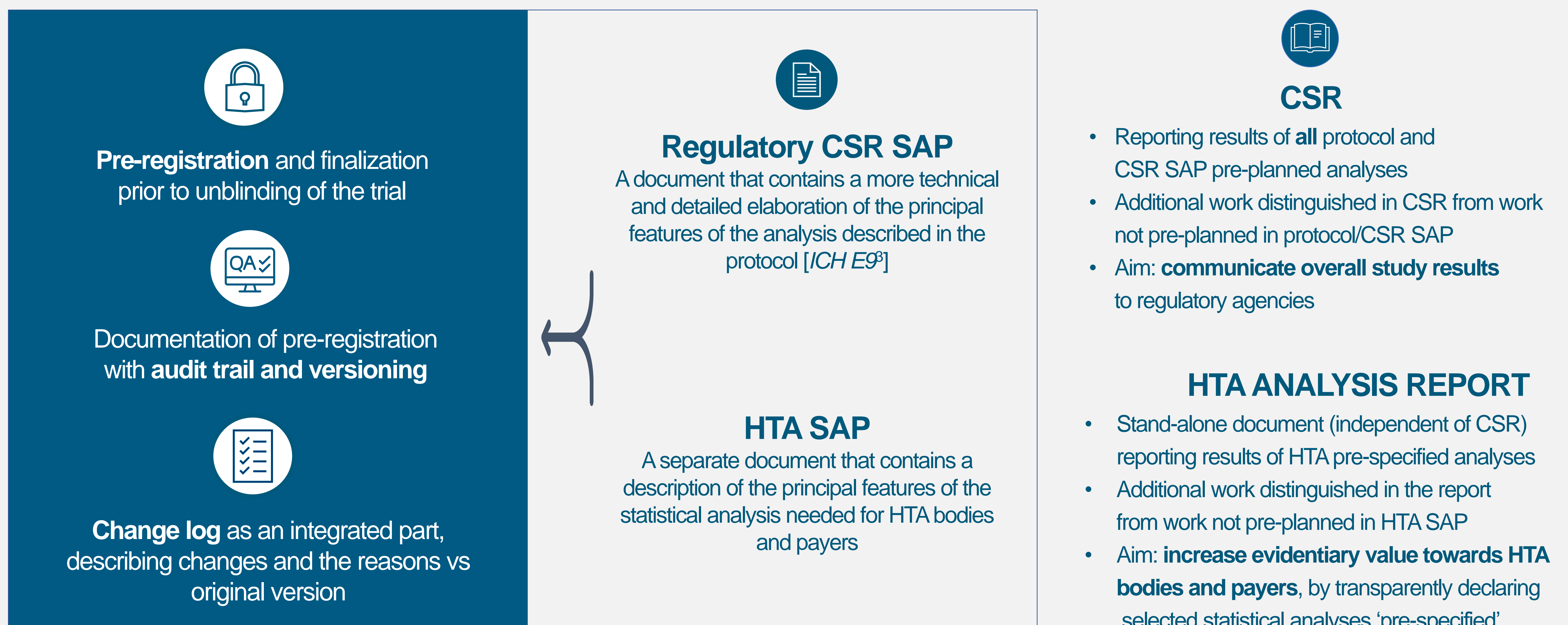
- Credible pre-registration of analyses** → Document final SAP versions in auditable quality management system
- High end-to-end transparency** → To claim benefit of pre-specification, design with purpose and summarize results of **all** pre-planned analyses
- Limited # of analyses per ‘concept’** → Only specify the most important analyses, as a large number of related ones dilutes strength of findings
- Limited degrees of freedom per analysis** → Be as detailed as possible, to limit opportunities for post-hoc cherry picking

**DO YOU
AGREE?**



Provide **your** ranking by scanning the QR code!

WHAT COULD ONE VERSION OF ‘PRE-SPECIFICATION FOR HTA’ LOOK LIKE?



Pre-specification of statistical analyses will be key for EU HTA - which is fast approaching. Therefore, there is an imminent need for dialogue and collaboration about how and when to do this in a pragmatic and workable way!

CSR: Clinical Study Report; ESIG: European Special Interest Group; JCA: Joint Clinical Assessment; HTA: Health Technology Assessment; SAP: Statistical Analysis Plan; PICO: Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome

¹<https://www.eunetha.eu/jointhtawork/>

²We acknowledge Katrin Kupas (BMS) for conducting the survey

³<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/ich-e9-statistical-principles-clinical-trials-scientific-guideline>



Want to get involved in this and similar methodology discussions?
 Join the PSI/EFSPi HTA Special Interest Group today
 – scan the QR code or email htasig@psiweb.org

