

**ATTACHMENT REQUESTING INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING
THE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

In developing the procurement strategy for attracting economic evaluators of Schedule 4 National Blood Supply Change Proposals, the NBA is seeking responses from the HTA industry to the questions below. We are also interested in any other comments, suggestions or information you think would assist us.

No.	Context	Question
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of National Blood Supply Change Proposals required by JBC to be subjected to Schedule 4 evaluation in the future is, at this stage, unknown, but is not expected to be any more than two to three each year. • We anticipate the requirement to categorise evaluations relating to the complexity or scope of evaluation, for example, complex and standard or minor and major or a 'points' system. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 What is the optimal contract duration your organisation would be seeking and why? 1.2 What is the minimum and maximum number of evaluations your organisation would have the capacity to undertake per year? 1.3 What timeframes would you be able to respond in? 1.4 What would be a viable pricing model under a contract, e.g. fixed price for a set number of evaluations? 1.5 On what basis could a point/category system be applied to the pricing of blood sector evaluations? 1.6 What do you believe is the optimal procurement model to attract sufficient interest from a range of providers in the industry, for example, panel versus sole provider, how work is allocated etc.?
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) contracts evaluation groups to undertake systematic reviews and develop economic models, whereas Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) contracts evaluation groups whose role is to critique submissions using pre-specified guidelines. • The scope of Schedule 4 of the National Blood Agreement is wide in that it accommodates both blood product and service proposals and enables the initiation of a proposal from a range of sources, including suppliers, TGA, other bodies with responsibilities in relation to safety and quality, the NBA, the JBC, or users of products and services. The availability of clinical data and the capacity of these sources to produce a HTA report will vary. To accommodate this variety of proposals, the NBA/JBC is considering choosing between the PBAC and MSAC evaluation approaches on a proposal by proposal basis. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Is it reasonable to expect that organisations have the capacity to undertake economic evaluation of both product and service proposals for the blood sector? 2.2 Is it reasonable to expect organisations to have either current or previous experience in conducting both PBAC and MSAC evaluations? 2.3 Does your organisation have experience in health economic evaluations in other contexts? 2.4 Does your organisation have the ongoing capacity to undertake both PBAC and MSAC type evaluations, noting that timeframes and requirements for each process will be different? 2.5 What is the degree of spare capacity in the HTA industry to undertake blood sector evaluations considering the current volume of work being undertaken in the industry on behalf of PBAC and MSAC? And how long would it take to develop increased capacity? 2.6 Does your organisation wish to express a view on what are the key elements of a quality industry provider that should be reflected in the evaluation criteria for the RFT, to ensure the NBA attracts organisations with genuine capability to provide appropriate health economics evaluation of new blood products and services?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to this, the NBA is considering targeting only those organisations that have experience in preparing evidence based evaluations for both PBAC and MSAC. • The NBA understands that the demand for economic evaluations (and health economists) has increased over the last decade. 	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants to the NBA have recently completed work to strengthen the cost-effectiveness component of the interim Schedule 4 guidelines linking the guidelines to relevant sections of the PBAC/MSAC guidelines. The NBA is seeking industry feedback on the practical application of this element of the guidelines to facilitate the provision of appropriate information in sponsor submissions. 	<p>3.1 Does your organisation have the skills to review the current Schedule 4 guidelines work and advise the NBA on a final set of economic evaluation guidelines based on both the PBAC and MSAC processes?</p> <p>3.2 Does your organisation have the capacity to take on additional work, for example, contributing to the continuous improvement of the Schedule 4 evaluation framework and process?</p> <p>3.3 Does your organisation have a view on the merit of using the PBAC and/or MSAC framework/methodology for the economic evaluation of blood products?</p> <p>3.4 Does your organisation believe there are other established frameworks/methodologies for health economics evaluation that the NBA should consider for the evaluation blood products and services?</p>
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A panel with the knowledge, skills and/or experience relevant to the product or service under review will be made available to provide a clinical and consumer perspective to the evaluator's economic evaluation activities. 	<p>4.1 Does your organisation possess blood product and/or blood sector expertise?</p> <p>4.2 Does your organisation believe that blood product and/or blood sector expertise should be a requirement in the tender specifications?</p>
5.	General Questions	<p>5.1 What timeframes would your organisation see as feasible to conduct each blood sector economic evaluation using the PBAC or the MSAC evaluation approaches and taking into account any pricing categorisation suggested in 1.4.</p> <p>5.2 Given your organisation's knowledge of the industry, what conflict of interest issues do you foresee for potential evaluators in undertaking services for the NBA, and how do you think possible conflicts of interest could best be managed within the NBA's arrangements?</p>

Thank you