

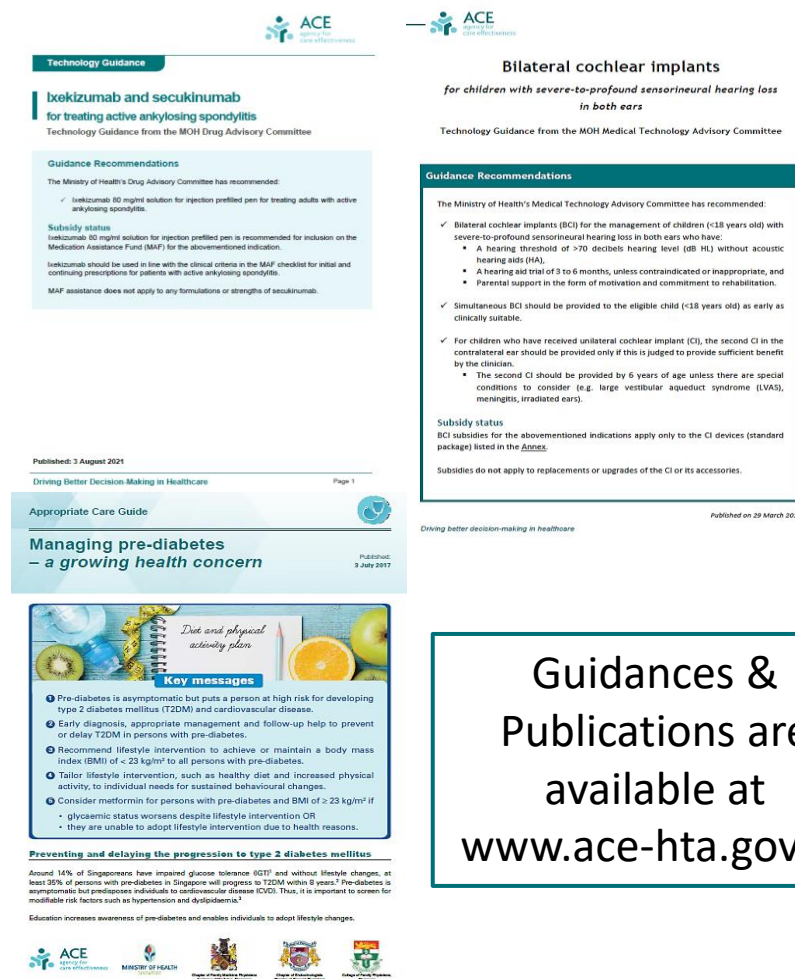
*A Dialogue with the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)
Consumer Engagement & Education Team (CEE)*

The Future of Patient and Public Involvement in Health Technology Assessment in Singapore

Ping-Tee Tan (CEE, ACE)
18 November 2021

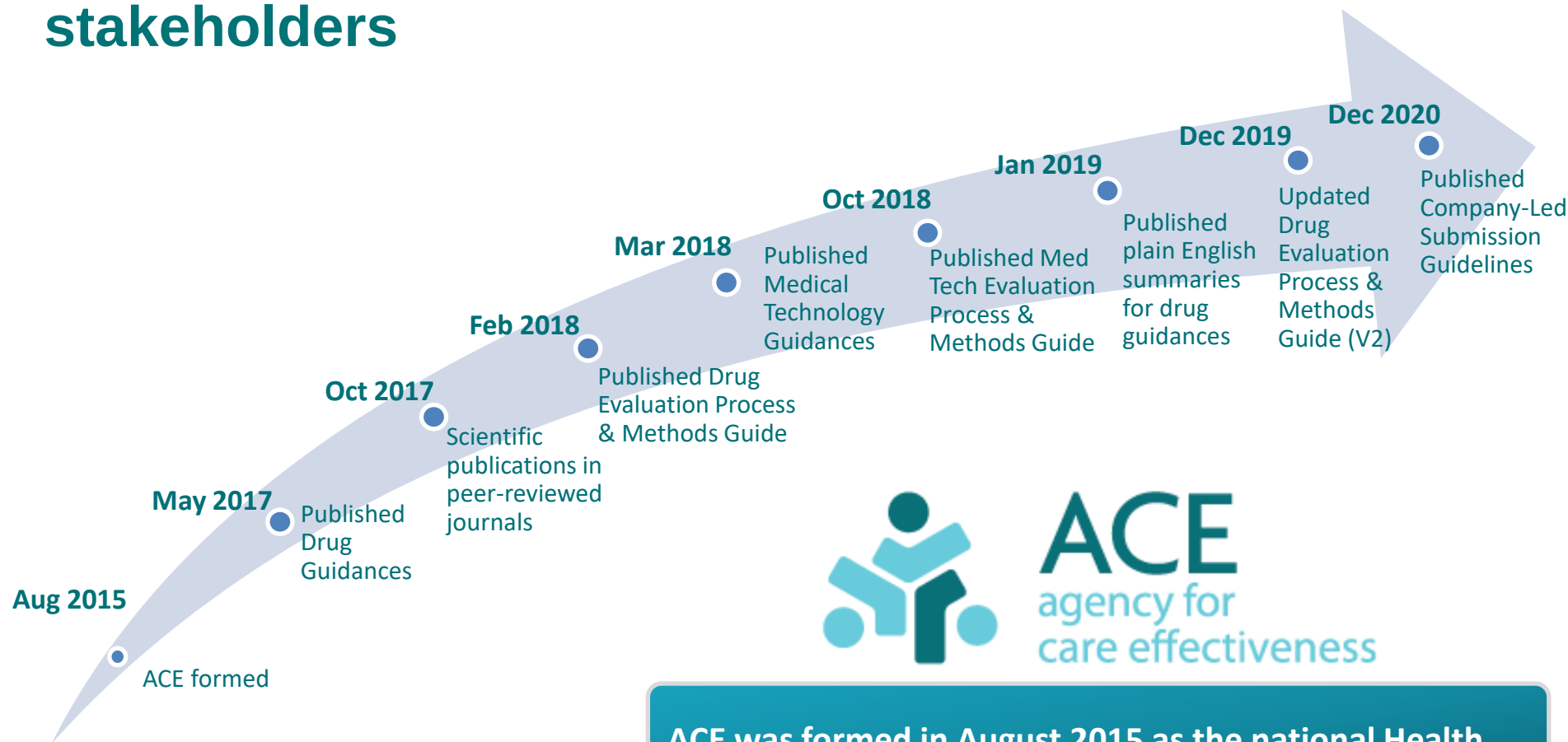
Since 2015, ACE has been supporting healthcare providers, patients and payers make better-informed decisions about patient care

1. Health technology assessments to inform funding decisions
2. Clinical guidance to inform clinical practice
3. Healthcare professional education
4. Healthcare consumer education



Guidances & Publications are available at www.ace-hta.gov.sg

Health technology assessment processes have been steadily evolving to meet the needs of our stakeholders



ACE was formed in August 2015 as the national Health Technology Assessment (HTA) agency in Singapore

Health technology assessments (HTA) to inform funding decisions

HTA is an **established methodology widely used internationally** (including UK, Canada, Australia, South Korea, Thailand) to inform funding decisions for health technologies.



HTA helps to answer:

How well health technologies (such as drugs, vaccines and medical devices) work in relation to how much they cost?

The goal of HTA is to inform the development of effective health policies about the use of health technologies in a manner that is patient-focused and achieves best value.

ACE conducts an HTA by reviewing clinical and economic evidence and seeking expert advice from local clinicians



Systematic literature review
of clinical evidence



Economic evaluation
(cost-effectiveness analysis)



Pricing negotiations with
pharmaceutical companies
(Value-Based Pricing)

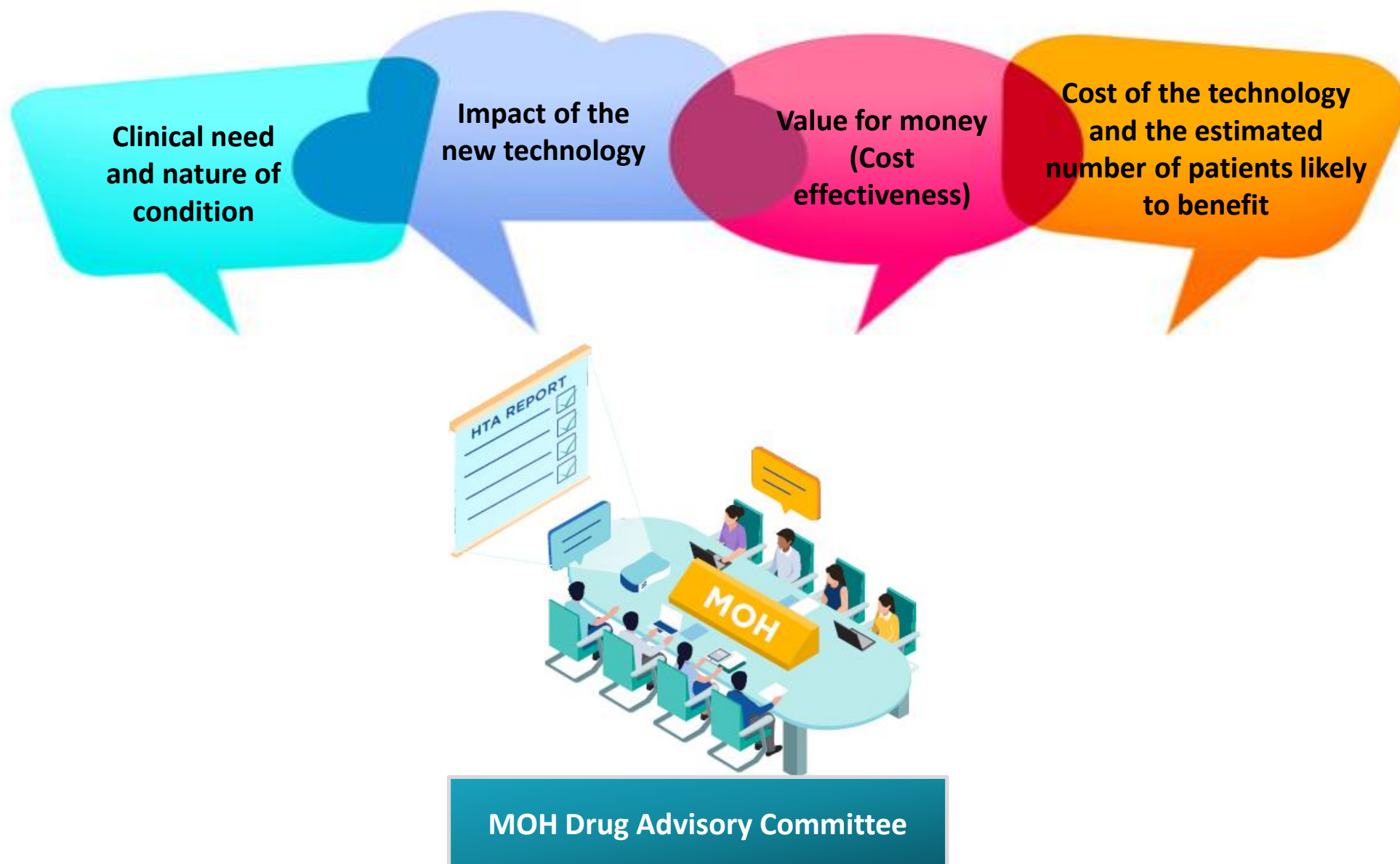


Expert opinion about local
clinical practice

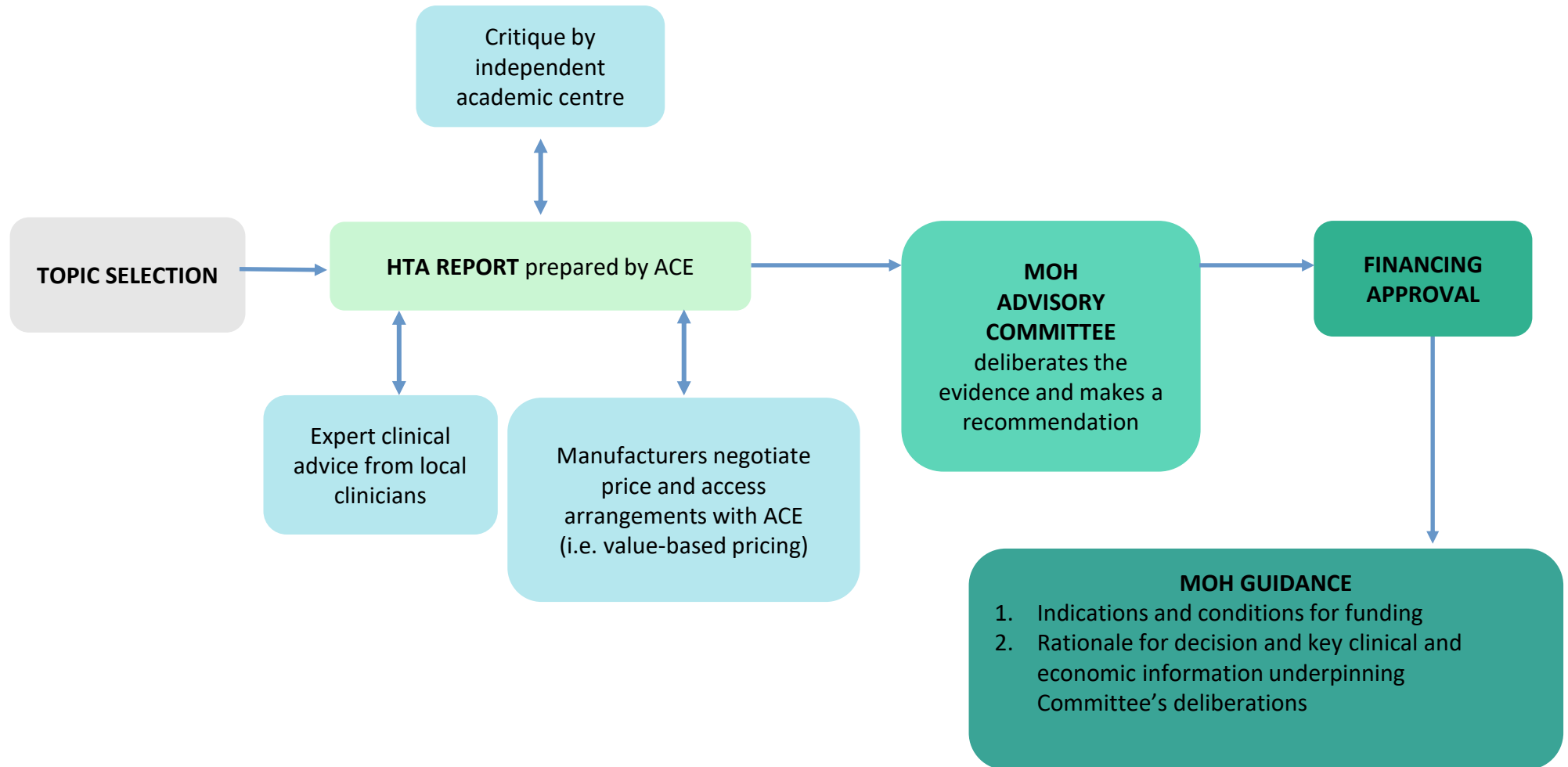


HTA report

ACE's HTA reports inform funding decisions



Overview of ACE's drug evaluation process



So far, ACE's work has improved patient access and affordability for many treatments

247

health technology assessments completed to inform health policy decisions, including subsidy and subvention



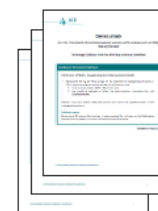
over 100

medicines, vaccines and medical devices have had price negotiations and were approved for funding



65

health technology guidances published



Improved access & affordability for

over **491,000**

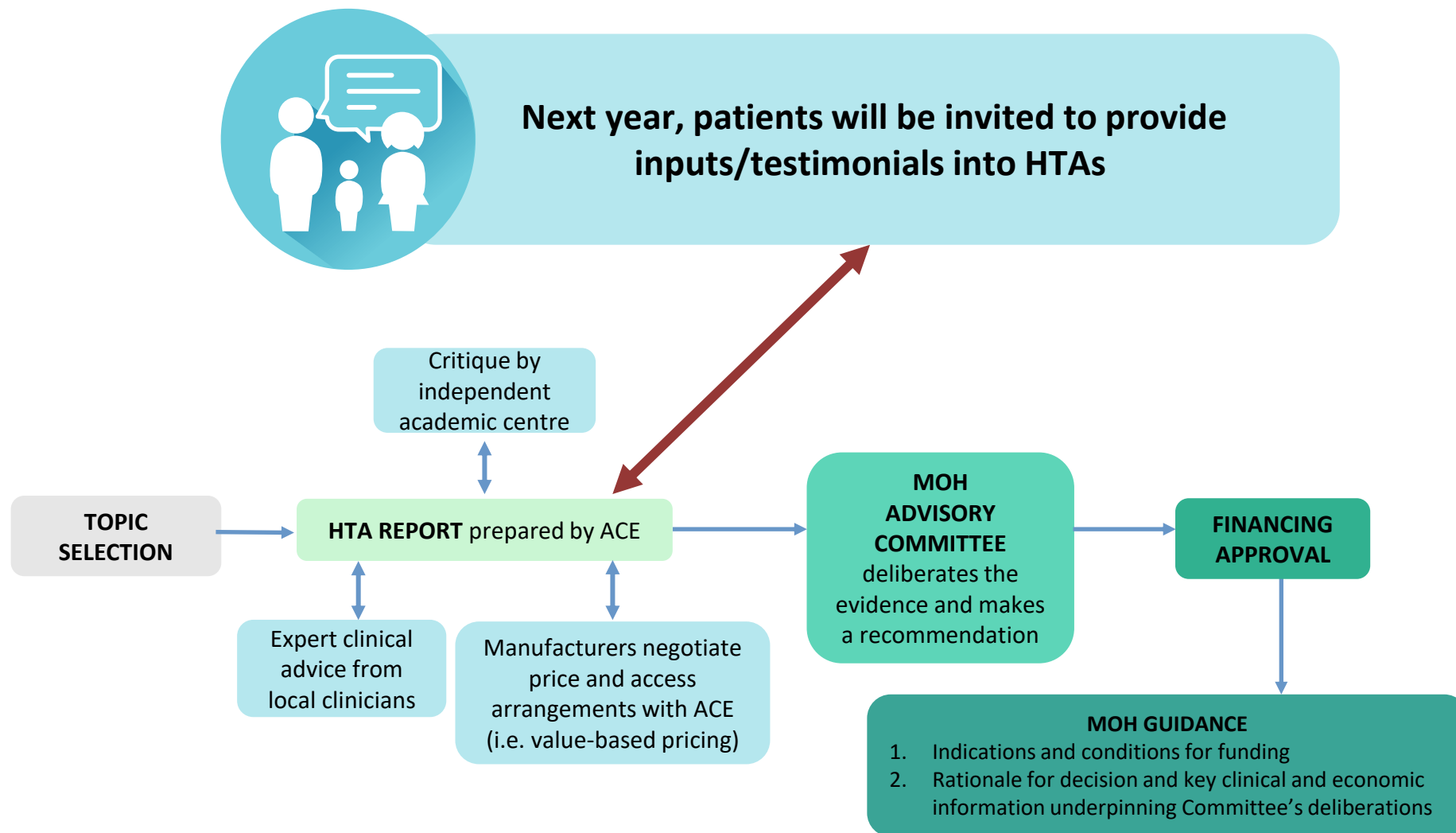
patients through 1st year of subsidy listing of drug and medical technologies evaluated



Over **\$300 Million**
cost savings to health system

*Statistics current up to Dec 2020

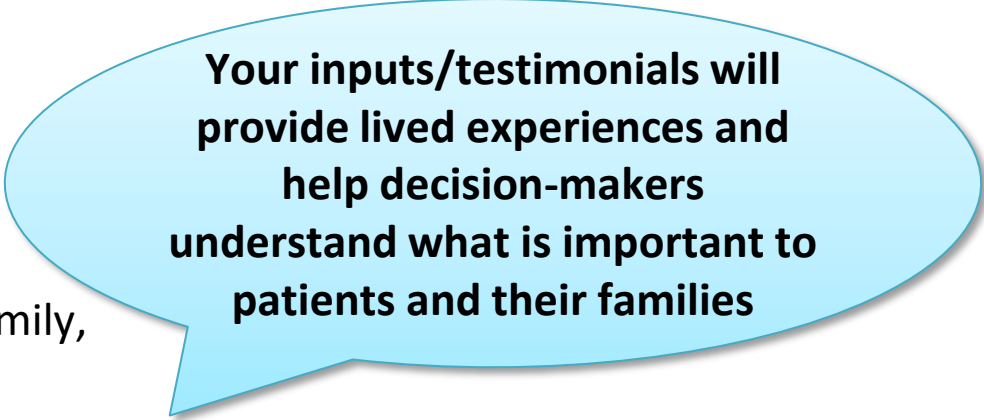
How can patients and the public get involved in health technology assessments?



How can patients help inform HTAs?

Unmet clinical need?

- What it is like having a disease/condition
- Challenges that patients face
- Impact of condition on patients, carers, family, friends and employers



Your inputs/testimonials will provide lived experiences and help decision-makers understand what is important to patients and their families

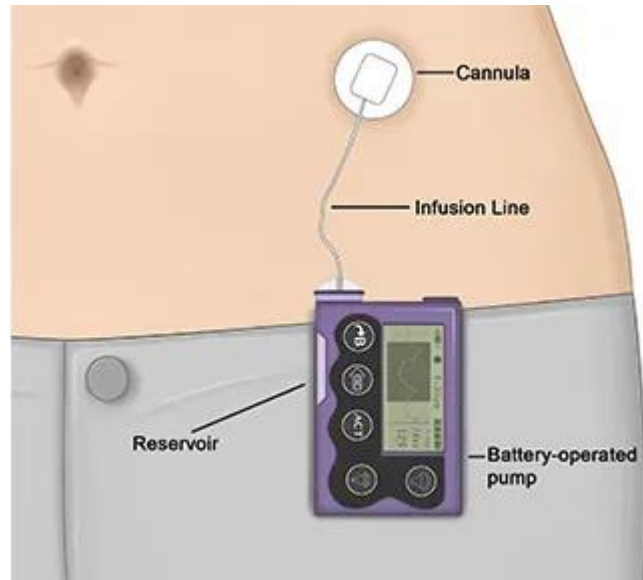
Benefits and risks of treatment?

- Impact of a treatment on symptoms, daily activities, level of independence, emotional wellbeing, and quality of life
- Ease of use of the treatment
- Side effects of treatment and whether they are manageable
- Affordability of the treatment

Who is likely to benefit from treatment?

- Subgroups who might benefit more/less from the treatment
- Will everybody want the treatment?

Patient inputs making an impact – example 1



Insulin pump therapy

- *Clinical evidence about the effectiveness of the treatment was only available for adults*
- *Parents of children with diabetes in the UK informed the committee that pumps revolutionised both the care and quality of life for children with diabetes.*

Patients can contribute important lived experiences that are not part of the evidence found in clinical research.

Facey, K.M., Bedlington, N., Berglas, S. et al. Putting Patients at the Centre of Healthcare: Progress and Challenges for Health Technology Assessments. Patient 11, 581–589 (2018). <https://doi-org.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/10.1007/s40271-018-0325-5>

<https://www.healthxchange.sg/diabetes/essential-guide-diabetes/insulin-pump-therapy-works-advantages>

Patient inputs making an impact – example 2



Age-related macular degeneration

- *Evidence suggested loss of sight in one eye has little impact on someone's quality of life*
- *Patient organisations in the UK confirmed that loss of binocular vision has a significant impact on activities of daily living and quality of life*

Patients add insights into how the clinical trials differ from real life and can inform assumptions in cost-effectiveness analyses

Facey, K.M., Bedlington, N., Berglas, S. et al. Putting Patients at the Centre of Healthcare: Progress and Challenges for Health Technology Assessments. Patient 11, 581–589 (2018). <https://doi-org.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/10.1007/s40271-018-0325-5>

<https://www.healthxchange.sg/head-neck/eye-care/age-related-macular-degeneration-what-you-need-know>

Patient involvement in HTA adds value for all stakeholders

Patient organisations

- Empowerment
- Enhanced well-being
- Learning about HTA and gaining transferable skills
- Learning about own condition and treatment options
- Building supportive, meaningful relationships

HTA bodies, decision makers and health-care providers

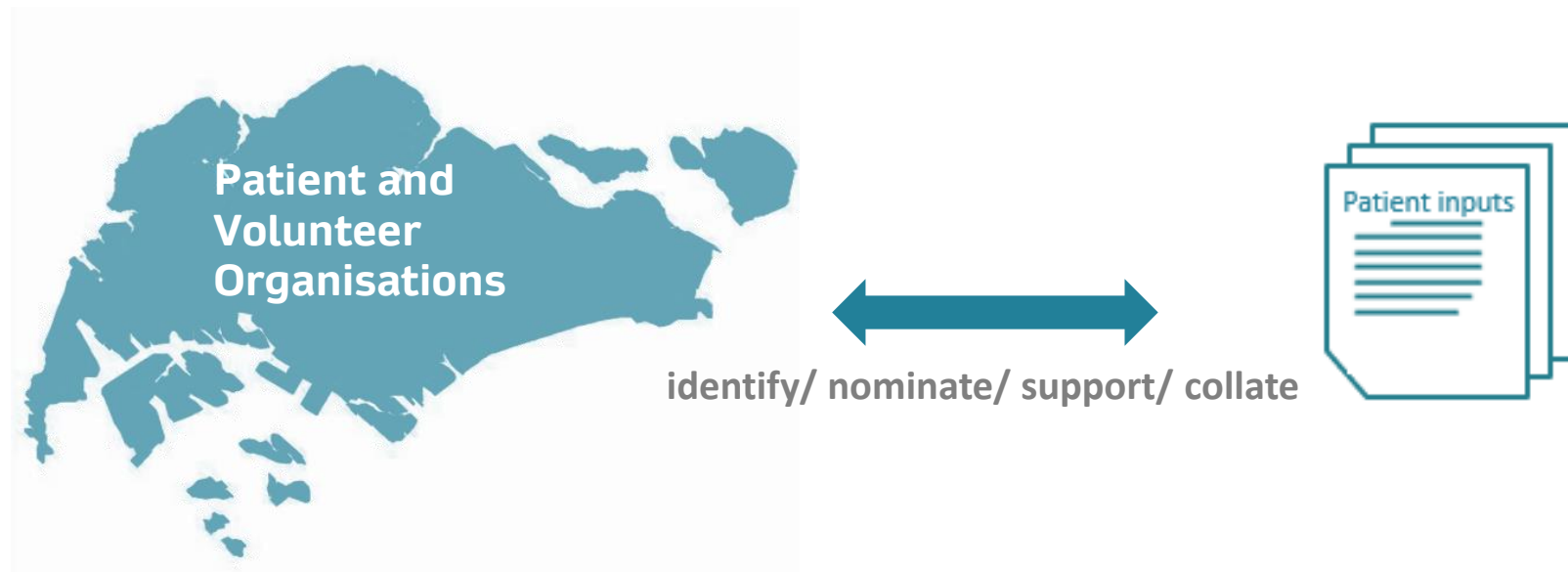
- More useful evidence and assessment for clinical and health policy decision making
- Better understanding of real-life context of conditions and treatments
- Increasing transparency, accountability, and the public's understanding of HTA and openness of decision processes
- Leading to more efficient and relevant decisions

Vat, LE, Finlay, T, Jan Schuitmaker-Warnaar, T, et al. Evaluating the “return on patient engagement initiatives” in medicines research and development: A literature review. *Health Expect.* 2020; 23: 5– 18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.12951>

The role of patient and volunteer organisations in Singapore

Patient inputs are generally most meaningful to the Advisory Committee if you or someone you know:

1. Have the condition under evaluation (and could potentially use the health technology in the future)
2. Are currently using the health technology under evaluation
3. Have been treated in the past with the health technology



Consumer Engagement & Education (CEE) team supports patient involvement in ACE's work

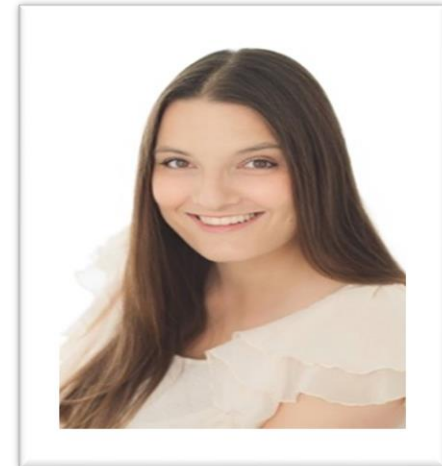
Ping-Tee Tan,
Senior Specialist



Shawn Quek,
Specialist



Fiona Pearce,
Senior Advisor



How can CEE support patient and volunteer organisations?

Formal support

(will be available on ACE website in 2022)

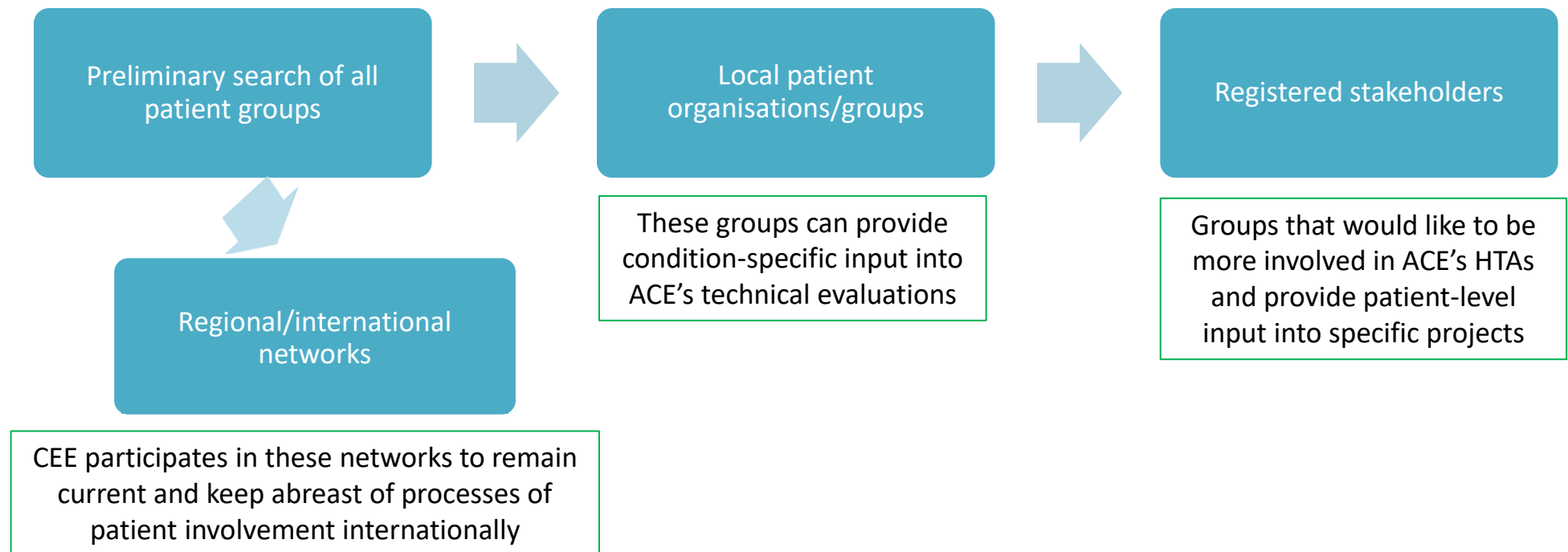
- Process guide
- Templates for patient inputs/testimonials
- Other support tools (educational collaterals, tip sheets, FAQs, etc)
- Training and workshops
- Presentations

Day to day informal support

- Meetings (virtual or face-to-face)
- Emails
- Phone calls
- Answer queries to help patients prepare their inputs

CEE has attempted to identify all patient organisations in Singapore

- Undertook stakeholder mapping to identify relevant groups in Singapore which may want to contribute to ACE's work
- CEE contacted all groups to find out more about their remits and whether they are interested in being involved or finding out more about CEE and ACE's work



CEE is developing educational collaterals for healthcare consumers to improve health literacy



Plain English Summary

Ixekizumab and secukinumab for treating active ankylosing spondylitis

What does the guidance say?

Ixekizumab is recommended for listing on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for government subsidy for adults with active ankylosing spondylitis.

Secukinumab is not recommended for subsidy.

What is ankylosing spondylitis?

Ankylosing spondylitis is a type of arthritis which causes long-term inflammation of the joints in the spine. Symptoms include joint stiffness and back pain.

What is ixekizumab?

You may know ixekizumab as Taltz, a drug that belongs to a group of medicines called biologics. It reduces inflammation and relieves symptoms. It is given as an injection.

How much ixekizumab can I take?

If you have ankylosing spondylitis, your doctor will usually prescribe two 80 mg injections for your first dose, then one 80 mg injection every 4 weeks after that.

Your doctor will regularly assess if ixekizumab is working for you and if you are likely to benefit from continued treatment.

Who can have ixekizumab?

Adults can have ixekizumab if they have active ankylosing spondylitis that has not improved with previous treatment.

Your doctor can advise if ixekizumab is a suitable treatment for you.

Driving Better Decision-Making in Healthcare



Plain English Summary

Ixekizumab and secukinumab for treating active ankylosing spondylitis

Why was ixekizumab recommended for MAF?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Ixekizumab was recommended because its benefit in relieving symptoms for certain patients with active ankylosing spondylitis justifies its cost.

Secukinumab was not recommended for subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost compared to ixekizumab.

What does listing on the MAF mean for me?

The Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) helps people with household incomes below the 67th percentile of the population pay for expensive treatments that are clinically necessary. If your doctor prescribes ixekizumab for you, and you meet the MAF criteria, your treatment cost will be subsidised by 50% to 75%.

Published: 3 August 2021

The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established by the Ministry of Health (Singapore) to drive better decision-making in healthcare through health technology assessment (HTA), clinical guidance and education. It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide.

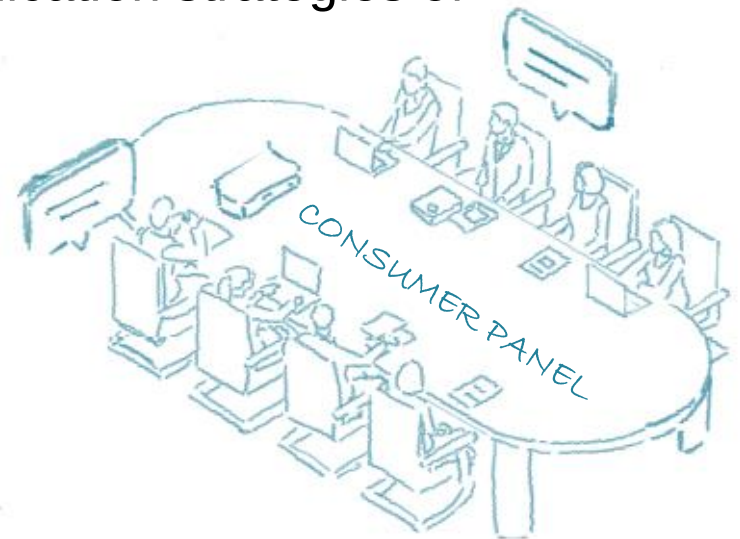
This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

To find out more about ACE visit www.ace-hta.gov.sg

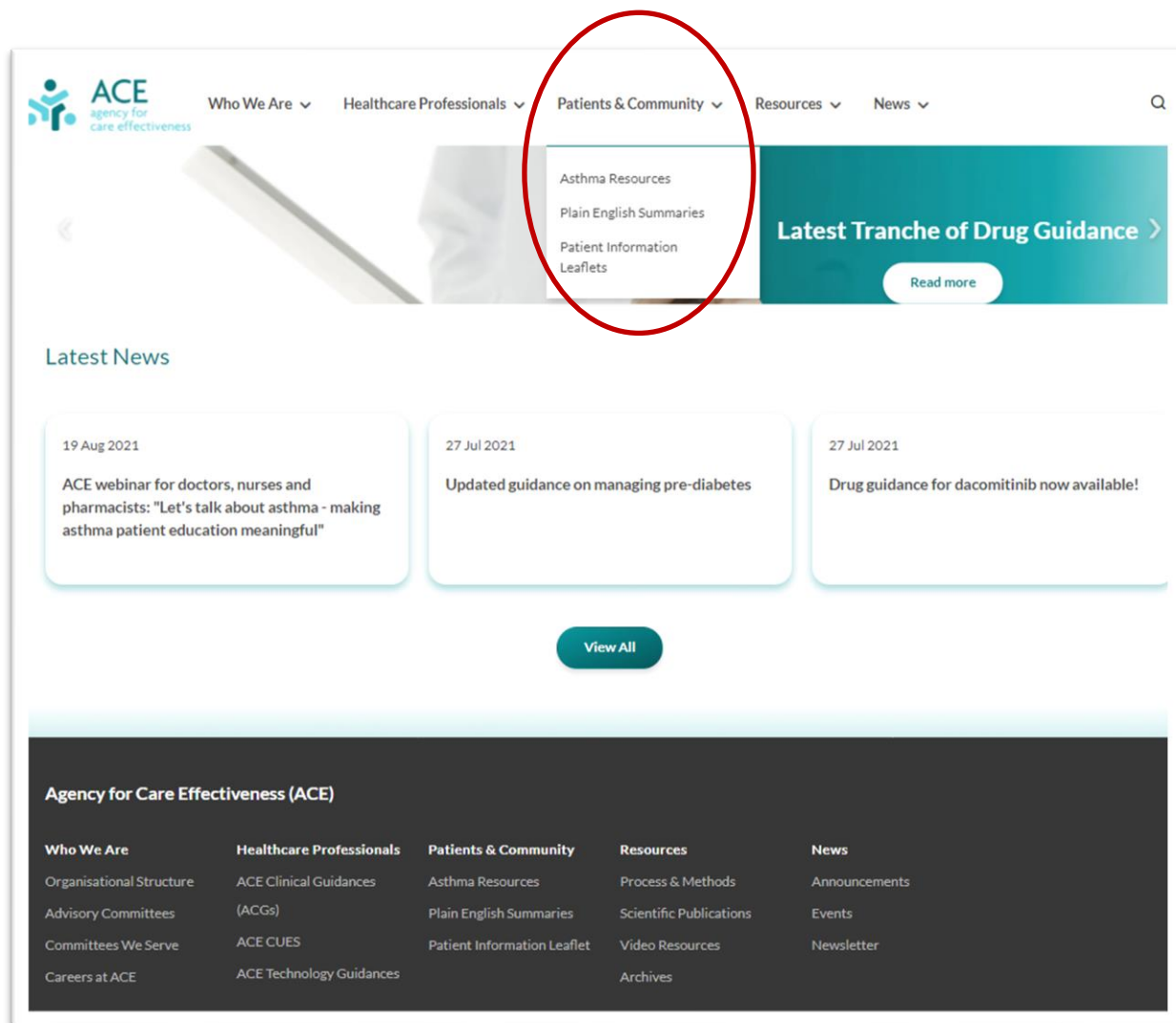
Driving Better Decision-Making in Healthcare

Guiding ACE to meaningful patient involvement – ACE's Consumer Panel (TBC)

- A panel of senior members of patient and voluntary organisations with lived experience of the Singapore healthcare system is being set up to:
 - identify opportunities for consumer involvement in ACE's work
 - advise on appropriateness of tools/templates developed by ACE to encourage meaningful patient involvement in our projects/HTAs
 - review the format, content and communication strategies of consumer educational materials
 - provide guidance on initiatives to strengthen ACE's relationships and engagement opportunities with consumers



More information for patients and the public will be available at www.ace-hta.gov.sg in 2022



Contact details



**Consumer Engagement & Education (CEE)
Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)**

Tell us what matters to you, your organisation or your community. Whether you use healthcare services or represent those who do, find out how you can get involved at ACE_CEE@moh.gov.sg.