

Prof Dr Hans V Hogerzeil

Co-Chair, Lancet Commission on Accelerating Progress on Essential Medicines
Em. Prof. Global Health and the Right to Health, University of Groningen, Netherlands

Inclusion of quality assurance strategies in 43 national medicine policies (2016-2025) – developing a new AI agent for operational research.

This work was performed in parallel with work for the Lancet Commission on Accelerating Progress on Essential Medicines. The content of 43 national medicine policy documents developed between 2016 and 2025 was analyzed in respect to several aspects, including strategies towards promoting efficacy, safety and quality of medicines. Specific aspects included the uptake of recommendations from the first Lancet Commission (2017), and inclusion of new aspects that have become prominent in the last decade, such as regional regulatory cooperation, the use of WHO technical guidance, benchmarking and regulatory reliance.

The 43 NMP documents were screened by a specifically developed AI agent (Claude), For each question, a scoring guide was developed to identify full and detailed language in line with the recommendation or the description (colour: green; 2 points); some reference to the topic but without detail (colour: yellow; one point); or no mention at all (colour: red; zero points). The agent also collected all relevant texts from the policy documents and gave arguments to what extent they responded to the question and why a certain score was proposed. All texts and scores were verified and, where necessary, adapted by the author, feeding the corrections back to the agent for future use. The quantitative scoring also allowed the agent to check possible correlations of the frequency of policy statements with time, or with GDP per capita.

This is unpublished work in progress and critical comments and questions are very wellcome.