

HTA Metro Map: a patient centred model for optimizing the decision-making process

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Introduction

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a systematic evaluation of a health technology, designed to appraise the direct or intended effects and indirect or unintended consequences of the technology with an overall goal of supporting informed decision making regarding the use of these health technologies in the healthcare system. In this project, we present fundamental HTA concepts and provide a conceptual framework that embraces the processes and outcomes required for integrated healthcare decision-making. A conceptual framework, called "HTA Metro MAP" was designed to guide the user through the different areas on: where to use, what and whom to involve within the decision process.

Methods

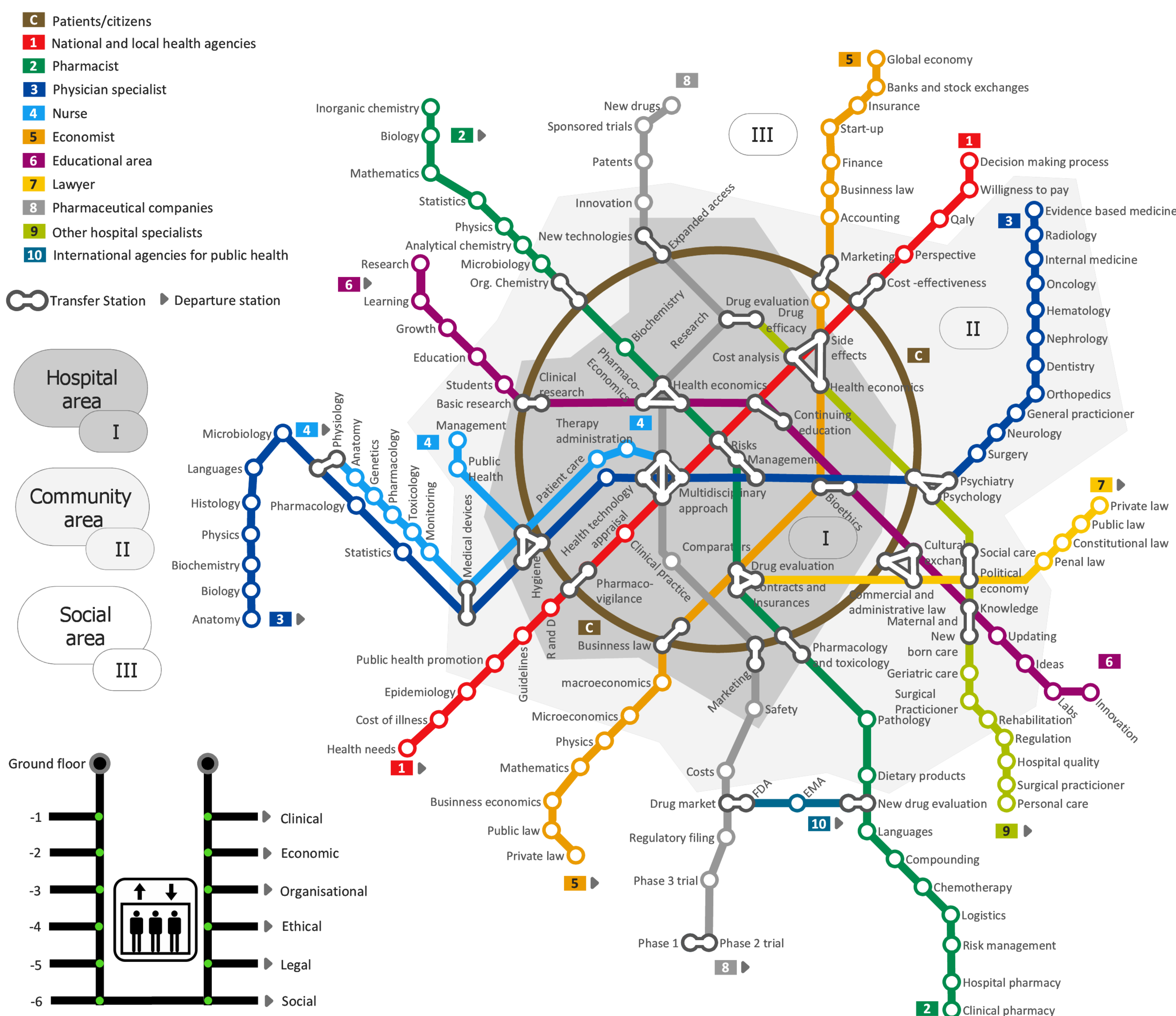
The "HTA Metro Map" is similar to a traffic plan map, basically a set of lines that cross each other, share intersection points and are concentrated in the central zone. Conceptually, these maps describe a complex network with interconnections as peculiarity. By interpreting lines as professionals working areas in the healthcare sector, the starting station is the beginning of their educational pathway and the subsequent stations are skills and attitudes of their profession. The multidimensional approach is represented by levels of depth of the stations, with clinical and economic aspects being within the easy reach of all professionals while organisational, ethical, legal, and social aspects being much more complex to evaluate.

Results

The paper discusses the main features of the "HTA Metro Map" while reinforcing the key concepts underlying HTA's integrated approach. The first view of the map provides the several layers of complexity seen in HTA and the various lines within the map represent the main actors involved in the assessment processes. The map connections and crossings symbolize the interprofessional and interpersonal collaborations while the stations denote the knowledge, skills, experiences, and attitudes of each professionals as they interact within this framework. Every line represents a HTA stakeholder and the circular line in the centre represents the patient as the centre of the system.

Conclusions

The "HTA Metro Map" is designed as a flexible model for easy adaptability and in accurately capturing the complexity inherent in any healthcare system. It is hoped that the map will assist different stakeholders to build network capacity, pool existing resources, and develop a more holistic vision that will result in a sustainable, efficient and collaborative decision-making process.



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