

SHTG: Advice on Health Technologies

The Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) is a national health technology assessment (HTA) agency. It provides evidence support and advice to NHSScotland on the use of new and existing health technologies which are not medicines* and which are likely to have significant implications for people's care in Scotland. This responsibility is delegated to SHTG by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS).

**Health technologies include a variety of healthcare interventions, from devices to diagnostic tests, to procedures and care pathways.*

We invite you to:

- Email any questions about health technologies (email shtg.hcis@nhs.net)
- Refer a health technology for assessment (menu of products, referral [form](#))
- View our work programme, with the option to express interest in peer reviewing an assessment ([work programme](#))
- Observe the development of national advice at an SHTG meeting ([register here](#))

Our vision

- Our work will contribute to the provision of better health and social care for everyone in Scotland.

Our approach

- We conduct independent evidence reviews and share knowledge across health and social care networks.
- We make the best use of our expertise to ensure that our work enhances health and social service provision across Scotland.
- We are receptive to the needs of our stakeholders and the decisions they are facing to ensure the relevance of our work.
- We put collaboration at the heart of our approach.

Our activities

1. We support decision-making surrounding health technologies by providing a range of HTA products in a relevant and timely manner.
2. We seek to align these technology assessments with the needs of health and social care organisations and the people they serve.
3. We contribute to the improved consideration of health and care technologies across Scotland.
4. We support the link between HTA and innovation across health and social care.

SHTG Action Plan

The SHTG Action Plan incorporates the Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Non-medicines Technology Strategic Plan ([link](#)).

1. Support decision-making surrounding health technologies by providing a range of HTA products in a relevant and timely manner

- Contribute to a 'rapid evidence review' process in collaboration with other teams within the HIS Evidence Directorate.
- Develop a bespoke Evidence Synthesis product to make use of components of traditional HTA.
- Develop SHTG Advice to guide and inform practice; capturing a range of HTA components to support recommendations for health and social care.
- Collaborate with partner HTA agencies to adapt respective evidence review products, to reduce duplication of effort.

2. Align our technology assessments with the needs of health and social care organisations and the people they serve

- Work with existing national groups to identify the HTA needs of national and regional decision-making groups through proactive engagement.
- Undertake HTAs in priority topic areas based on the needs of NHSScotland.
- Develop processes to support HTA throughout the technology life-cycle; for example, reassessment, disinvestment and review of previous work.
- Contribute to horizon scanning for health technologies in Scotland using resources such as HealthTech Connect.

3. Contribute to the improved consideration of health and care technologies across Scotland

- Establish links with local and regional board structures across Scotland to raise awareness of SHTG and to encourage the application of HTA within health and care technology decision making.
- Develop 'HTA bridges' to improve two-way communication between SHTG and NHS boards; enabling a more targeted approach to the sharing of HTA products and identifying priority areas for assessment.
- Consolidate communication channels with NHS Procurement, both locally and nationally, to promote the use of HTA in adoption of technologies.
- Progress the working relationship between SHTG and the life sciences industries.
- Develop the role of patient input to SHTG's health technology assessments.

4. Support the link between HTA and innovation across health and social care

- Continue to produce Innovative Medical Technology Overviews (IMTOs).
- Work with the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) and the Health and Social Care Innovation Network, and collaborate with NHS Test Beds and Procurement, to create a coordinated innovation pathway for Scotland to help unlock the benefits of innovation HTA.
- Provide support to stakeholders across the innovation pathway. Offer HTA expertise and signposting to other organisations as appropriate.