



Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland

SHTG
Advice on health
technologies

Plain Language Summary

The north imaging alliance: a survey | October 2023

What is the north imaging alliance (NIA)?

The NIA is a network of radiology services from six health boards in the north of Scotland. The areas covered by the network are NHS Western Isles, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Grampian, NHS Shetland and NHS Tayside.

Why is this important?

Radiology is a medical specialty that uses imaging to diagnose and treat diseases. It is important for providing high quality, effective and timely treatment to patients.

National bodies in Scotland recognise the need for radiology services to work together in networks to become more sustainable and adaptable. The survey reported in this document was designed to explore the benefits of the NIA and to identify priorities for the network to focus on over the next 5 years.

What we did

We developed a short survey with input from people involved with the NIA. The survey was sent to current members of the NIA to gather their views.

What we found

1. There is strong support for the continuation of the NIA across the six northern health boards involved in the network.
2. The main benefits of the NIA are networking and communication opportunities. The ability to provide mobile imaging and enhanced service provision were also highlighted as benefits.

3. The most valued support provided by the NIA is the opportunity to network with people from other boards, helping people communicate with other boards or within their own board and the how to work together to provide services. NIA support for service improvement and project management are viewed as beneficial.
4. Short-term (1–2 years) and medium-term (2–5 years) priorities for NIA support are diagnostic imaging, reducing waiting times and cancer care.

What is our conclusion?

NIA members consider the network to be useful and beneficial. The main benefits and types of support appreciated by members are networking, communication and collaboration.

Priorities for NIA support over the next 5 years are diagnostic imaging, reducing waiting times and cancer care.

What next?

The survey results will be shared with the NIA and used to inform their discussions around the future funding and direction of the network.

This plain language summary has been produced based on a Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) Assessment October 2023