



NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme

NHS

*National Institute for
Health Research*

Work with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)



NIHR HTA programme and NICE

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is responsible, through its Technology Appraisals programme, for providing national guidance on new and existing treatments to the NHS, and are the major customer for Technology Assessment Reports (TARs). The HTA programme commissions TARs on behalf of NICE to support each of its Technology Appraisals.

TARs independently assess the existing evidence base on the benefits, harms and costs of particular health technologies, and are prepared by one of seven academic centres based at universities in the UK.

NICE's appraisal process

NICE have two appraisal processes, both of which work to tight timelines to give advice to the NHS as quickly as possible.

Single Technology Appraisals

These assess single drugs for single disease areas. Within eight to 10 weeks, the academic centres prepare 'Evidence Review Group reports' which technically assess the quality and completeness of data submissions from the drug manufacturer.

Multiple Technology Appraisals

These compare a number of technologies in a disease area and so require more time. Academic centres have 28 weeks to prepare reports which usually comprise a systematic review of the evidence, a review of data submissions from the technology manufacturers, and often a specially designed economic model which is used to independently assess the cost-effectiveness of each drug or device.

Contract management

In managing the TAR contracts on behalf of the Department of Health, the HTA programme oversees the academic centres' work programmes (though does not undertake any of the research itself).

The HTA programme is responsible for ensuring a research team is allocated to support each of NICE's appraisals, as well as for any reports requested by other policy customers (see back page for details).

Each report is then monitored to check that it is delivered within the required timescale, and managed through a process of peer- and editorial review ahead of publication in the HTA journal series, *Health Technology Assessment*.

As reports prepared for NICE's Single Technology Appraisal process are mainly based on data submissions from manufacturers, they do not undergo the standard

Other ways the HTA programme supports NICE

1. Commissions primary and secondary research in response to key NICE research recommendations, to inform future appraisals and guidelines.
2. TARs are occasionally commissioned in support of NICE's guidelines and public health programmes.
3. Provides a peer-review service for completed NICE guidelines by seeking comments from external experts.

peer-review process. Instead they are published in summary format as a supplement to the journal series.

Up to 2008, the HTA programme had commissioned over 200 Technology Assessment Reports on behalf of NICE, and nearly 100 for other policy customers.

Where the academic centres are based:

- ▶ Aberdeen HTA Group
- ▶ West Midlands Health Technology Assessment Collaboration (WMHTAC)
- ▶ Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group (LRIG)
- ▶ Peninsula Technology Assessment Group (PenTAG)
- ▶ Sheffield School of Health and Related Research (SchARR)
- ▶ Southampton Health Technology Assessments Centre (SHTAC)
- ▶ York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) and Centre for Health Economics (CHE)



Other policy customers

The HTA programme also regularly commissions the academic centres to use their specialist skills to prepare reports for other policy customers.

Similar to reports prepared for NICE's Multiple Technology Appraisal process, these will often include a systematic review and economic model, plus any other necessary components required by the customer such as a Value of Information study.

Recent policy customers have included:

- ▶ NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme
- ▶ NHS PASA's Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing
- ▶ Organ Donation Task Force
- ▶ Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs
- ▶ Policy Research Programme
- ▶ National Screening Committee

Further information

To learn more about our work supporting NICE, visit our website at www.hta.ac.uk/about/customers/NICE

You can also contact the Technology Assessment Report Programme Manager, tel: 023 8059 5598, email: htatar@southampton.ac.uk



The HTA programme is part of the National Institute for Health Research. It is managed by the NIHR Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment (NCCHA), part of the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC), based at the University of Southampton.

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