Questions from the public: May 2022 Board meeting

# It is positive to see the HTA innovation lab pilot. It would be useful to understand how stakeholders should engage with the process of the HTA innovation lab. How do NICE see people engaging, at what points and how?

The arrangements for the innovation lab are still to be determined. At the time of the board meeting we are in the scoping phase with discussions with major external stakeholders. HTA Lab topics will be in scientific and policy areas of importance to NICE and we envisage tailored stakeholder engagement by topic. In circumstances where there is high complexity and multiple stakeholders, we anticipate the use of a policy sandbox approach where stakeholders are engaged in the co-creation of innovative solutions.

# When the IMF launches, will full details be published or it will be a ‘soft launch’ with one medicine, and further details published later? I see in the board papers it says the publication will see the publication of the IMF principles document, the response to the consultation and FAQs on NHS England’s website.

NHS England are due to publish this information on their website and a soft launch of the IMF is anticipated (this is now [available](https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines-2/innovative-medicines-fund/#:~:text=The%20Innovative%20Medicines%20Fund%20is,%2Dedge%20non%2Dcancer%20treatments.)). The recently updated methods and processes for technology evaluation take account of the IMF so NICE is ready and able to implement it.

# Regarding technology appraisals - does the total 98 number include those appraisals that were terminated (19 across the year)?

Yes.

# Can we get a commitment from NICE that medtech products will be included in the HTA lab.... eg renal denervatiin for hypertension as a public health need?

Yes, the HTA Lab can be used for medtech products. The first set of products for consideration under this process have not yet been confirmed.

# You mention in the board papers that you will be pausing any significant updates to NICE methods and processes, is this a pausing to any modular updates? Do you know when the first modular update may occur?

The business plan priorities around proportionate approach to technology appraisal and early value assessment both involve significant changes to NICE’s methods, and have been selected following engagement with stakeholders. Plans for further modular updates in future years will be discussed with the Board towards the end of the year.

# Are the 6 products just mentioned already selected? (Health technologies / Digital technologies). How can I add a workforce technology to the 6?

The products for the pilot are currently being selected and NICE will be engaging with companies shortly. Companies can notify NICE of their technology through HealthTeh Connect: https://www.healthtechconnect.org.uk/.

# I expected to see data as one of the foundations that is needed for transformation. What are the plans for that?

The use of data, and in particular the use of real-world data to address evidence gaps, is firmly embedded into our current strategy (see [The NICE strategy 2021 to 2026 | Corporate publications | Who we are | About | NICE](https://www.nice.org.uk/about/who-we-are/corporate-publications/the-nice-strategy-2021-to-2026)). This year we are prioritising work on digital living guidelines and early value assessment of digital health- and medical technologies. The use of real-world data will be important in pilots within both of these areas. Additionally, we will be launching our real-world evidence framework on 23 June. The framework will signal what NICE considers good practice in the design, execution, and analysis of real-world studies (studies that generate data outside of clinical trials). Following the launch of the framework, we intend to deliver a programme of upskilling and education to NICE staff and our advisory committees in the use of real-world data in the context of NICE guidance. Access to data is also firmly on this year’s work plan; we are working with NHS Digital to ensure data environments are designed with NICE’s needs in mind and we have recently negotiated access to the NHS Trusted Research Environments which will be an important source of data for NICE’s guidance development over the next few years.