

NICE Health Technology Assessment Innovation Laboratory (HTA Lab)

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The health and care system is changing



We're seeing:

- health service pressures
- shared decision making
- growth in innovation
- vast amounts of data.

NICE

NICE is transforming too

NICE's core purpose remains the same: to help practitioners and commissioners get the best care to people fast, while ensuring value for the taxpayer.

But as the NHS transforms to meet future challenges, we need to play our part too.

HTA Innovation Laboratory (HTA Lab)

- A “safe space” for experimenting, and developing creative solutions to complex problems, often in close collaboration with health system partners and stakeholders.
- Collaborative and innovative approach and tools used (e.g. policy sandbox*).
- Using our learnings from collaborating in HTA methods research projects (Next Generation Health Technology Assessment (HTx))

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Health Technology Assessment Innovation Laboratory (HTA Lab)

The HTA Lab enables NICE to develop creative solutions to complex problems in health technology assessment.

It offers a 'safe space' for creating solutions in collaboration with system partners and stakeholders.

The number, range and complexity of technologies we review has never been greater. The way these technologies are regulated in science and healthcare is also developing rapidly.

This poses a challenge to NICE when we're assessing some products. The pace of innovation can sometimes mean using our existing methods alone might not meet the needs of patients, the public and health and care system partners.

It's our duty to keep ahead of these developments: to make sure patients gain rapid access to the newest and most promising treatments.

“ The HTA Lab aims to create new methods and processes for health technology assessment, taking innovation from the lab and into practice.

Nick Crabb, programme director of scientific affairs at NICE

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Objectives

"The HTA Lab aims to create new methods and processes for health and technology assessment, taking innovation from the lab and into practice."

Nick Crabb, programme director of scientific affairs at NICE

NICE



Established as part of the NICE 2022/23 business plan in response to the unprecedented pace of innovation in the health technology landscape.

To ensure that NICE's outputs in technically complex and disruptive technology or policy areas are useful and usable and land well in the healthcare system.

To develop solutions that enable the evaluation of innovative and potentially highly beneficial health technologies, where application of NICE's current frameworks alone would not meet the needs of patients, the public and health system partners.

HTA Lab projects



Rapid entry to managed access (REMA) aimed to help timely access for patients to innovative technologies, where the evidence is still emerging (completed project).



Virtual wards supports development of practical guidance and advice to help with the effective implementation of technology-enabled virtual wards (live project).



Disease modifying dementia treatments explores the key issues that may arise during the technology appraisal process (live project).



Methods for the evaluation of complex diagnostics that are applicable to multiple care pathway aims to identify the challenges associated with evaluating multi-indication technologies (live project).

Lessons learnt so far

- Clear definition of the project objectives, scope, target audience and project outputs.
- Engaging and bringing together the relevant collaborators.
- Ensuring clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and accountability of the project collaborators.
- Maintaining an independent approach to evaluating the available evidence, that does not provide a steer or NICE position that pre-empts committee decision making.
- Clear communication to ensure HTA Lab output is not misunderstood to be NICE guidance or advice.



Thank you

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