



Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland

**SHTG**  
Advice on health  
technologies

# Scottish Health Technologies Group

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and links to IRIC

Ed Clifton  
*SHTG - Unit Head*



- Introduce the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG)
- Describe the role of health technology assessment (HTA)
  - Components of HTA
- Note the importance of working alongside partner groups and organisations
- Recognise the link between SHTG and IRIC
  - Improved information for decision makers
  - Mutual benefits?



**Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland**

**SHTG**  
Advice on health  
technologies

scottish  
health  
council

making sure  
your voice counts

Supports NHS boards and health and social care providers to involve patients and the public in the development of services.



**ihub**  
supporting health  
and social care

Helps health and social care providers design and deliver better services for the people of Scotland.



**SIGN**

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network

Develops evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for NHS Scotland.

We are  
with one  
purpose  
improving  
the possi-  
bilities of  
the p

Our br  
suppor  
care se  
This in  
Indepe  
along  
parts c  
have s

Accepts  
medic  
for mor

## We are one organisation with many parts and one purpose

Advice  
on new  
medicines

Death  
Certification  
Review Service

Advice  
on health  
technologies

Scottish  
Patient Safety  
Programme

Standards,  
guidelines  
and indicators

Making the  
public voice  
count

Enabling health  
and social care  
improvement

Global quality  
improvement  
webinars

Improving  
antibiotics use

Inspections  
and reviews



**Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland**

**SHTG**  
Advice on health  
technologies

- SHTG is a national health technology assessment (HTA) agency

- Core team of clinicians, scientists and economists
- SHTG Co-ordinators and representatives from all NHS Scotland boards



- We provide evidence support of new and existing health technologies (devices) and which are likely to have significant implications for people's care



- A health technology is an intervention, health product or service developed to prevent, diagnose or treat medical conditions; promote health; provide rehabilitation; or organize healthcare delivery. The intervention could be a test, device, procedure or patient pathway.

# Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

SHTG

*A multidisciplinary process that uses explicit methods to assess the value of a health technology (at an agreed point within its lifecycle). The process is comparative, systematic, transparent and involves multiple stakeholders. The purpose is to inform health policy and decision-making to promote an efficient, safe, sustainable, equitable and high-quality health system.*

- Systematic evaluation of the properties and effects of a health technology
- Aimed at informing / helping decision-makers
- Largely a scientific process, but increasing need for value judgements
- Stakeholder engagement vital: clinical, patients, industry etc.

# Application of HTA – alignment to key groups<sup>SHTG</sup>

- Range of HTA ‘activities’
  - horizon scanning and trying to identify the ‘right’ topic
  - prioritisation of what to assess
  - assessment of effects and impacts
  - appraisal to determine overall value
  - implementation
- SHTG keen to align to key groups who have an...
  - ...awareness of priority areas and live issues
  - ...ability to affect change.

Topic  
identified

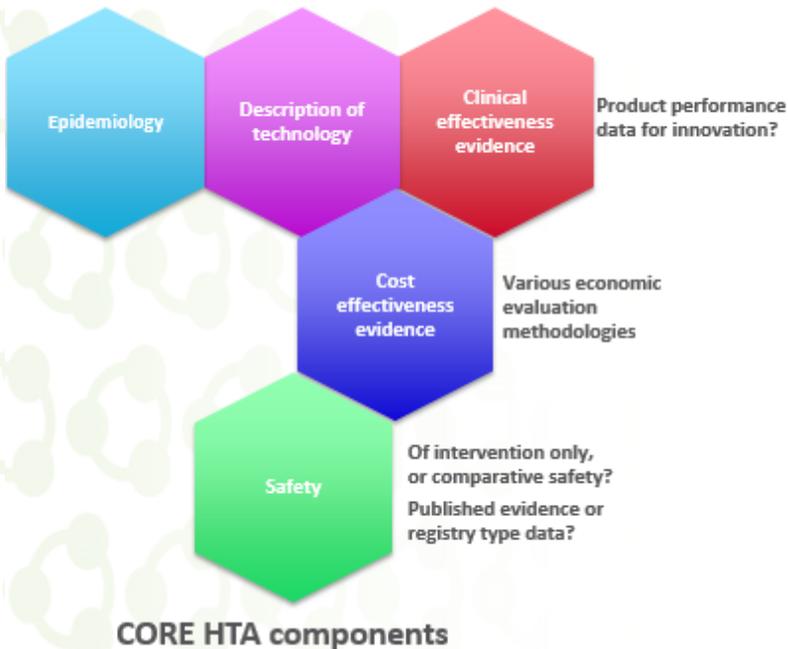


Assessment and  
appraisal (SHTG)

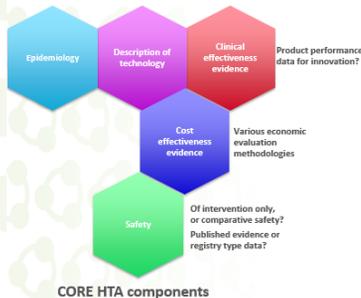


Consideration /  
implementation

# Health Technology Assessment (HTA) components <sup>SHTG</sup>



# Where does IRIC fit in?



- Safety as a core HTA component
  - Focus tends to be published safety data
  - Registry type data?
- The IRIC mission is to improve the safety of equipment and facilities in Scotland's health and social care services
  - Adverse incidents
  - Safety alerts.

# Example 1: Current work programme – Hernia Mesh<sup>SHTG</sup>

## Under Assessment

Health Technology	Referrer	Planned Outputs	Publication
Cochlear Implantation	NSS	Evidence Synthesis	TBC
Closed System Drug Transfer Device - Cytotoxic Drugs	NHS Forth Valley	Evidence Synthesis	TBC
Hernia Repair Mesh	SG	SHTG Advice	Dec 2019
Stem cell transplant for MS	SG	SHTG Advice	Oct 2019
Synovasure alpha defensin laboratory test	Golden Jubilee National Hospital	SHTG Advice	July 2019
Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion	National Advisory Committee on Heart Disease	SHTG Advice	July 2019
Mitral clip	National Advisory Committee on Heart Disease	SHTG Advice	July 2019
Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) for severe aortic stenosis	National Planning Board	SHTG Advice	April 2019

# Example 2: Previous assessment – Freestyle Libre<sup>SHTG</sup>



Alternative to finger prick method of glucose monitoring.

**SG / SDG referral**

**Significant geographic and financial inequality of access**

**Impact – huge interest / engagement following positive SHTG recommendation**

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Clinical Effectiveness literature review

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Safety (based on literature)

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Cost Effectiveness literature review

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Economic modelling for Scotland & Budget Impact

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Patient Group Submission: Diabetes Scotland

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Clinical Expert Group (Linked to MCN)

Scottish  
Health  
Technol  
Group

Industry Liaison



- Systematic evaluation of the properties and effects of a health technology
- Aimed at informing / helping decision-makers
- Largely a scientific process, but increasing need for value judgements
- Stakeholder engagement vital: clinical, patients, industry etc.
- **“Uncertainty is an uncomfortable position. But certainty is an absurd one.”**
  - Comprehensiveness versus time?
  - How important is the uncertainty?
  - Weighting of HTA components?
- IRIC collaboration can only help towards ascertaining the effects of the health technology
- Reduced uncertainty, improved information for decision-makers.

- Introduced the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG)
- Described the role of health technology assessment (HTA)
  - Components of HTA
- Noted the importance of working alongside partner groups and organisations
- Recognised the link between SHTG and IRIC
  - Improved information for decision makers
  - Mutual benefits?

# Keep in touch

SHTG

shtg.hcis@nhs.net

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org)

Ed Clifton - [edward.clifton@nhs.net](mailto:edward.clifton@nhs.net)