NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# Minutes of the Board Strategy Meeting

Wednesday 21 October 2020, held at the Wellcome Collection, London and via video conferencing

These notes are a summary record of the main points discussed at the meeting and the decisions made. They are not intended to provide a verbatim record of the Board’s discussion.

## Present

**Non-Executive Directors** Sharmila Nebhrajani

Dame Elaine Inglesby-Burke

Professor Tim Irish

Dr Rima Makarem

Tom Wright

**Executive Directors** Professor Gillian Leng

Meindert Boysen

Paul Chrisp

Jennifer Howells

**Directors in attendance** Jane Gizbert

Felix Greaves

Judith Richardson

**In attendance** David Coombs (minutes)

Helen Knight

Alison Liddell

Carole Longson

Ian Watson

## Apologies (Board and Senior Management Team) (item 1)

1. Apologies were received from Alexia Tonnel who was represented by Alison Liddell.

## Declarations of interest (item 2)

1. It was confirmed there were no conflicts of interest relevant to the meeting.

## The NICE methods of health technology evaluation: the case for change (item 3)

1. Meindert Boysen presented the proposed consultation paper for the Centre for Health Technology Evaluation (CHTE) methods review. He noted that the document summarises the review’s background and objectives, outlines 56 proposals for change, and explores the potential impact of those proposals. Meindert highlighted the extensive engagement with stakeholders to date and explained that the consultation seeks feedback on whether the proposals provide a suitable basis to inform the final methods; the potential effects of the changes on patients, health technologies and the NHS; any potential implications for other NICE programmes; and any equalities issues.
2. The Board welcomed the extensive work undertaken and noted the discussions at earlier Board meetings. Board members asked how the proposals relate to the wider review of NICE’s strategy, and also whether the methods will in future be updated more regularly in line with NICE’s likely future strategic ambitions around increased agility. In relation to the specific proposals, there were questions from the Board about the proposed modifier that would consider the severity of disease, in particular how it could be put into practice. The proposals around discounting were discussed, including the need to ensure the methods take account of the specific challenges around curative technologies. Board members cautioned against making categorical statements in the paper, given the proposals are for consultation. As there will likely be a range of views expressed in the consultation, the Board highlighted the importance of robustly managing the second stage of the process which is to develop specific changes to the programme manuals.
3. Meindert and CHTE colleagues responded to the points raised and noted that the methods review is a central part of NICE’s wider transformation programme. Future updates of the methods of health technology evaluation will use a more modular and iterative approach, moving away from a cycle of updating every 4 to 6 years. It was noted that the previous work on value based pricing will help inform the arrangements for implementing the proposed severity modifier.
4. The Board formally thanked Meindert and colleagues for the detailed work that has been undertaken to get the proposals to this point, including the engagement with the Board and stakeholders on these challenging and complex issues. It was agreed further information on the background to the severity modifier should be added to the paper, including to reference the link to the previous proposals around value based pricing and explain why this issue is again now proposed. It was agreed that the statements around discounting should be reviewed, in particular about the removal of the current exception for non-reference-case discounting in defined circumstances, to reflect it is a consultation paper. Subject to these amendments, the paper was agreed for consultation.

ACTION: Meindert Boysen

1. It was agreed that the Board should hold a further discussion on the arrangements for using the feedback from this first stage consultation to develop the actual changes to NICE’s programme manuals.

ACTION: Gill Leng

## Any other business (item 4)

1. None.