# CHTE topic selection process

Topics are identified from:

* journal articles and other literature
* suggestions from NHS England, clinicians, patients and the public
* HealthTech Connect
* UKPharmascan or NIHR Innovation Observatory.

## Interventional procedure

1. Check the eligibility criteria to make sure the topic is eligible. If it is not eligible NICE guidance is not required.
2. All new or significantly modified interventional procedures will be selected if they’re available to the NHS or independent sector, or about to be used outside of formal research.
3. If they don’t meet the criteria, a topic briefing is developed.
4. The topic selection oversight panel ratifies the non-selection decision. NICE guidance is not required.

## Medicine

1. Check the eligibility criteria to make sure the topic is eligible. If it is not eligible NICE guidance is not required.
2. All new active substances will be selected, except where there is a clear rationale not to do so. For example, if the topic is a duplicate or has a significant overlap with an existing topic then NICE guidance is not required.
3. To be selected for Highly Specialised technologies guidance all of the following criteria must apply:
	1. The target patient group for the technology in its licensed indication is so small that treatment will usually be concentrated in very few centres in the NHS.
	2. The target patient group is distinct for clinical reasons.
	3. The condition is chronic and severely disabling
	4. The technology is expected to be used exclusively in the context of a highly specialised service.
	5. The technology is likely to have a very high acquisition cost.
	6. The technology has the potential for life long use.
	7. The need for national commissioning of the technology is significant.

If these criteria are not met, select for technology appraisal guidance.

1. If the criteria are met, or if there’s uncertainty, a topic briefing is developed.
2. The topic selection oversight panel decides whether a medicines topic should be routed to technology appraisal guidance or highly specialised technologies guidance.

## Device or diagnostic (including digital)

1. Check the eligibility criteria to make sure the topic is eligible. If it is not eligible NICE guidance is not required.
2. A device or diagnostic is likely to be selected if it meets the following criteria:
	1. It has benefits that are likely to be highly disruptive or lead to a stepwise change to an established care pathway in the UK.
	2. A systematic assessment of the cost and system impacts is needed. For example, because there is uncertainty about the likely cost or system impact, or because the costs and impacts are expected to be significantly cost incurring or cost saving.
	3. The benefits are supported by:
		1. evidence of effectiveness (such as RCT, before and after studies, cohort studies, diagnostic test accuracy studies) that compares the technology to current practice in the UK health and care system or to an appropriate reference standard.
		2. information about the expected resource impact of adopting the technology that is directly applicable to the UK health and care system such as reports or studies describing the cost and system impact of implementing the technology, or an economic model.
		3. advice from experts (such as patients, carers, clinicians and commissioners) that confirms the benefits are desirable and are likely to be realised when adopted in the UK health and care system.

If it doesn’t meet the criteria NICE guidance is not required.

1. If the criteria are met a topic briefing is developed.
2. The topic selection oversight panel decided if a device or diagnostic topic should be selected for NICE guidance and if so, where it should be routed.

## Eligibility criteria

The following are not usually eligible:

* Not available in the UK within 24 months.
* Involve use of an unlicensed technology. They cannot be considered in NICE guidance as there is no UK regulatory assessment of safety and efficacy to support their use. Unlicensed medicine topics may be passed on for consideration in a NICE evidence summary.
* Involve use of an off-label technology. They cannot be routinely considered in NICE guidance unless:
	+ its use is common practice in the UK
	+ there’s good evidence for it’s use
	+ there’s no other alternative for the indication.

Off-label medicine topics may be passed on for consideration in a NICE Evidence Summary.

* Digital health technologies in tiers 1,2 or 2a of the [Evidence Standards Framework](https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/our-programmes/evidence-standards-framework-for-digital-health-technologies).
* Used widely by the target population in the UK and have a well-know safety, efficacy and cost profile, unless:
	+ there’s new information that brings their safety, efficacy or cost into question

or

* + there is a new variation that might have a different safety, efficacy or cost profile to the established topic.
* Intended to be used for population-based screening. This use is in the remit of the UK National Screening Committee and is not eligible to be considered by NICE.
* Prophylactic vaccinations. These are in the remit of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. They are not eligible to be considered by NICE. (This does not include therapeutic vaccinations which are eligible to be considered by NICE).
* Does not involve a technology or interventional procedure. These are best considered by NICE guidelines. For examples exercise on prescription, rehabilitation programmes, care pathways.