



Resource impact summary report

Resource impact

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Contents

Resource impact summary report 3

Recommendations 3

Eligible population 3

Treatment options 3

Financial resource impact (cash items) 4

Capacity impact 4

Key information..... 4

About this resource impact summary report..... 5

Resource impact summary report

Recommendations

NICE has recommended that there is not enough evidence comparing drug-eluting stents to determine whether price variation between different stents is justified.

NHS trusts should provide access to a range of drug-eluting stents, so that a clinically appropriate stent is available for everyone with coronary artery disease.

If more than one drug-eluting stent is clinically appropriate, choose the least expensive stent.

Eligible population

There are around 1.7 million people living with coronary heart disease in England (based on [NHS England's 2023 to 2024 Quality and Outcomes Framework prevalence estimates and Office for National Statistics population estimates](#)). According to NHS England's Spend Comparison Service data which uses data reported by providers, cited in a [GIRFT \(Getting It Right First Time\) cardiology report](#), in 2021 the NHS spent over £21 million on nearly 86,000 drug-eluting coronary stents in England.

Treatment options

The current management of coronary artery disease and using drug-eluting stents is from the following sources:

- [NICE's guideline on acute coronary syndromes \(2020\)](#)
- [NICE's guideline on stable angina \(2016\)](#)
- [Byrne RA, Rossello X, Coughlan J et al. \(2023\) European Society of Cardiology \(ESC\) Guidelines for the management of acute coronary syndromes. European Heart Journal 44\(38\): 3,720–3,826](#)
- [Vrints C, Andreotti F, Koskinas K et al. \(2024\) ESC Guidelines for the management of](#)

[chronic coronary syndromes](#). 45(36): 3,415–3,537

In 2023, around 65% of the spend on drug-eluting stents within the NHS was directed through the NHS Supply Chain. The clinical experts explained that contracts for stents at NHS trusts typically include 2 or 3 drug-eluting stents that can be used across various types of lesions. A small proportion (for example, 10%) of the contract is reserved for purchasing stents for use in specific cases.

Financial resource impact (cash items)

Around 86,000 stents were used in the NHS in 2021 at a cost of over £21 million ([GIRFT cardiology report](#)).

Choosing the least expensive stent if more than one drug-eluting stent is clinically appropriate may save costs. But the potential savings are uncertain. This is because price differences between stents are generally relatively small. They are variable at a local level and would depend on local procurement policies.

Capacity impact

No capacity impact has been identified because no particular stent is recommended over another.

Key information

Table 1 Key information

Speciality area	Cardiology
Disease area	Coronary heart disease
Programme budgeting category	PBC10A – coronary heart disease
Pathway position	Disease management
Commissioner(s)	Integrated care boards
Provider(s)	Secondary care – acute and tertiary

About this resource impact summary report

This resource impact summary report accompanies the [NICE guidance on drug-eluting stents for treating coronary artery disease](#) and should be read with it.

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