

Interim process and methods statement for bringing together NICE guidance

NICE process and methods

Published: 18 July 2024

www.nice.org.uk/process/pmg47

Contents

Introduction.....	3
1 Why we are bringing together NICE guidance.....	4
Key principles underpinning the incorporation of NICE technology appraisals in NICE guidelines	4
2 Process and methods for incorporating NICE technology appraisals into NICE guideline topic areas.....	6
Surveillance	6
Scoping new NICE guidelines or updates.....	6
Incorporation	6
Validation	7
Appeals	8
3 Approach to further development of process and methods for bringing together NICE guidance.....	9
4 Updates to this interim process and methods statement.....	10

Introduction

Our core purpose is to help practitioners and commissioners get the best care to patients fast, while ensuring value for the taxpayer. Since 1999, we have played a key role in using the best available evidence to develop recommendations that guide decisions in health, public health and social care. This work is guided by [our charter](#) and [our principles](#).

To support the changing needs and objectives of all parts of the health and care system, [we are transforming](#) to ensure our guidance remains relevant, timely, useable and has a demonstrable impact on health and care. To achieve these aims, the process and methods that underpin our guidance need to evolve.

1 Why we are bringing together NICE guidance

- 1.1 Currently, our guidance is published according to the programme that developed it (for example NICE guidelines and NICE technology appraisals). This means that users can find it harder to access and navigate all NICE recommendations about a condition because they must search in multiple places on the NICE website to find them.
- 1.2 We want to bring together and make it easier for users to find all of our guidance about a condition or disease. This is underpinned by our strategic objective to provide guidance that is useful and useable. Our aims are to:
- Provide a better experience for users and help increase the adoption of NICE guidance, leading to better outcomes for patients and better use of NHS resources.
 - Produce quality-assured products that can be used by healthcare professionals and patients and that can be rapidly updated as new technologies become available.
- 1.3 This document sets out the updated interim process and methods statement for bringing together NICE guidance, following changes made to the [statement](#) that was released for public consultation in February 2024.

Key principles underpinning the incorporation of NICE technology appraisals in NICE guidelines

- 1.4 All NICE technology appraisals (both positive and negative) within the scope of a topic will be incorporated in a NICE guideline by presenting them in the guideline at the appropriate point in the care pathway. No assessment will be made comparing the treatment specified in the NICE technology appraisal guidance with other treatment options. The NICE technology appraisal recommendations will remain in place and there will be no change to the meaning, intent or the

eligible population for which there is a funding requirement (when applied for positive recommendations).

1.5 During incorporation we will consider whether:

- there are any existing treatment options at that decision point
- topic expert input is needed to ensure clarity and usability of the NICE guideline
- additional wording is needed within the NICE guideline to ensure that the presentation of all the appropriate treatment options is clear.

1.6 As part of the 2024 voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing, access and growth, we have committed to increasing our efforts for timely update of NICE guidelines to incorporate NICE technology appraisal guidance recommendations.

1.7 All NICE technology appraisals that are within the scope of a NICE guideline will be incorporated. NICE's technology appraisal programme typically covers new technologies, new pharmaceutical products or new licensed indications. Some products may not fit within the scope of a current NICE guideline. This may be because there is no NICE guideline for that condition, or because treatment options for the relevant population are not covered within the scope of NICE's current guideline on that topic area. When new NICE technology appraisals are published they will be incorporated into relevant NICE guideline(s) where existing technology appraisal recommendations have already been fully incorporated.

1.8 We will regularly review our process and methods for incorporating NICE technology appraisals, updating and consulting with stakeholders if needed, to ensure our guidance continues to meet user and system needs.

2 Process and methods for incorporating NICE technology appraisals into NICE guideline topic areas

Surveillance

- 2.1 NICE guideline recommendations are subject to surveillance processes set out in the [developing NICE guidelines manual](#). NICE technology appraisal guidance that has been incorporated in a NICE guideline topic area will be subject to surveillance processes as set out in [appendix O](#) of the developing NICE guidelines manual.

Scoping new NICE guidelines or updates

- 2.2 Scoping new NICE guidelines or updates is carried out in line with the process and methods outlined in the [developing NICE guidelines manual](#). The scope sets out which NICE technology appraisals will be incorporated. When a NICE technology appraisal is incorporated into a NICE guideline outside of a formal guideline development or update process, there will not be a separate scoping process.
- 2.3 We will ensure that all the stakeholder organisations that participated in the NICE technology appraisal are registered as stakeholders for the NICE guideline.

Incorporation

- 2.4 NICE technology appraisals will be incorporated into relevant NICE guideline topic areas and presented as hyperlinks to the relevant NICE technology appraisal recommendations webpage using 1 or more of the following options:
- A list of the relevant NICE technology appraisals at the appropriate point in

the care pathway. Information giving context about NICE technology appraisal positioning in the care pathway may be added to the NICE guideline to support usability.

- A table if there is more than 1 treatment option available and it is helpful to highlight any differences between these options.
- A visual flow diagram.
- A mixture of the above options.

2.5 NICE technology appraisal recommendations will be incorporated into NICE guidelines by a multidisciplinary team with representatives from across our organisation and will be subject to user feedback (see [section 2.10](#)). Where appropriate, topic experts (for example, NICE committee members) will also be involved in supporting the process.

2.6 We make incorporation decisions about the presentation and placement in the NICE guideline, with input from relevant external stakeholders if needed. All incorporations are quality assured before publication.

Validation

2.7 When a NICE technology appraisal is incorporated into a NICE guideline outside of a formal guideline development or update process, there will not be a separate validation process. All registered stakeholders will be informed when the NICE guideline has been re-published on the NICE website, with the NICE technology appraisal(s) incorporated.

2.8 Where a NICE technology appraisal is incorporated as part of new NICE guidelines or updates, the validation process will be as described in the [NICE guideline methods manual](#).

2.9 All registered stakeholders for the NICE guideline will be informed when the NICE guideline incorporating NICE technology appraisals has been published.

- 2.10 Users will be given the opportunity to give feedback on the presentation of incorporated NICE technology appraisals in the NICE guidelines on the NICE website after publication.

Appeals

- 2.11 As the NICE technology appraisal recommendations and funding requirement (when applied for positive recommendations) will remain in place, there will not be an appeals process when a NICE technology appraisal is incorporated into a NICE guideline.

3 Approach to further development of process and methods for bringing together NICE guidance

3.1 As we work to deliver on our commitment to incorporate NICE technology appraisals into NICE guidelines, we will continue to review and update our approach as needed (see [section 1.8](#)). We will focus initially on areas where the incorporation of NICE technology appraisals using the methods described above is less likely to meet user needs. Examples of limitations to the incorporation process include situations where:

- new evidence is available which might support expanding the patient population in an existing NICE technology appraisal recommendation to improve health outcomes
- we identify a NICE technology appraisal recommendation that is no longer aligned with current clinical practice
- it is difficult for users to navigate crowded decision points (for example, where there are both NICE technology appraisals and other types of NICE guidance)

4 Updates to this interim process and methods statement

- 4.1 These interim process and methods will be updated to reflect learning from incorporation of NICE technology appraisals in NICE guidelines (see [section 1.8](#)) and further public consultation on the interim process and methods statement where appropriate.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-6411-6