NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Medtech Innovation Briefings (MIBs):

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are Medtech Innovation Briefings (MIBs)?

NICE Medtech Innovation Briefings (MIBs) are designed to support NHS and social care commissioners and staff who are considering using new medical devices and other medical or diagnostic technologies. The information provided includes a description of the technology, how it's used and its potential role in the treatment pathway. A MIB also includes a review of relevant published evidence and the likely costs of using the technologies, but they are not NICE guidance and do not make any recommendations on the value of using the technologies. The briefings will help avoid the need for organisations to produce similar information locally, so saving staff time, effort and resources. MIBs are designed to be fast, flexible and responsive to the need for information on innovative technologies. MIBs are commissioned by NHS England and produced in support of the NHS 5 Year Forward View, specifically as one of a number of steps which will accelerate innovation in new treatments and diagnostics. NICE published its first MIBs in 2014.

2. What types of products are suitable for a MIB?

MIBs are designed to provide information and advice on a wide range of technologies. So far, MIBs have been produced on medical devices, radiotherapy equipment, imaging technologies, in vitro diagnostic tests, genomic tests and medical software.

3. Who are MIBs aimed at?

The main audiences for MIBs are:

- clinicians and managers, to inform their decision-making
- decision-making groups involved in commissioning or policy development. This could include local groups handling individual funding requests (IFRs)

They may also be of interest to patients and the public.

4. Who can suggest topics for MIBs?

To maintain flexibility to consider a wide range of possible topics, there is no formal process at NICE to specifically identify MIB topics. Instead, topics are identified from a wide range of sources, chiefly NHS England. The NICE Medical Technologies

Evaluation Programme (MTEP) team also identifies topics via its routine company engagement activities, horizon scanning reports and clinical networks. Companies or others with innovative products that might be suitable for consideration by NICE should contact MTEP in the usual way at medtech@nice.org.uk.

5. How are topics for MIBs chosen once NICE becomes aware of them?

The NICE Medical Technologies Evaluation Programme (MTEP) team uses a selection framework. The framework considers:

- The regulatory status, current availability and degree of innovation;
- The level of NHS or social care interest in the technology;
- The relevance to existing, in-development or future NICE guidance;
- The proposed patient or system benefits;
- Whether there is sufficient evidence publicly available to summarise and critically appraise. Although there is no threshold for the quality or quantity of evidence, the best available evidence will be selected for inclusion.

6. How are MIBs produced?

Each briefing is authored by an External Assessment Centre (EAC) which is commissioned by NICE to provide a range of evidence assessment and preparation services and which have knowledge of and expertise in the evaluation of medical technologies. The aim is for MIBs to be responsive to need, so production is designed to provide a rapid service with a planned production timeline of around 12 weeks. The EAC searches for and sifts the evidence, critically appraises it and develops a draft MIB. Specialist commentators who are expert clinicians with experience in the therapeutic area then review the draft MIBs and provide comments, often to help clarify the place of the technology in the care or therapy pathway. For selected topics, comments are also invited from patient and carer organisations. These comments are summarised by the EAC in the briefing. NICE then publishes the briefing on the website at http://www.nice.org.uk/mib.

7. How do MIBs relate to other NICE guidance?

MIBs complement existing NICE guidance products by providing rapid, responsive, information on new and novel technologies. They may include new evidence which has been published since related NICE guidance was last updated, to support local decision-making and, importantly, do not preclude NICE guidance on the technology being developed in future.

8. Further information

By April 2015, NICE had published 29 MIBs and NICE plans to produce up to 40 MIBs each year. The Integrated Process and Methods Statement describes in more detail what MIBs are and how they are produced. NICE welcomes feedback on Medtech Innovation Briefings or requests for more information (to medtech@nice.org.uk). Published MIBs are available at www.nice.org.uk/advice?type=mib.

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