



Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland

**SHTG**  
Advice on health  
technologies

# Advice on Health Technologies

Quarterly Bulletin | January 2026

## What is the purpose of this bulletin?

This bulletin lists advice and guidance on health technologies published in October 2025 to January 2026 by the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) and recent health technology assessments (HTAs) undertaken by other HTA agencies across the UK, Ireland, and Europe. It is produced by SHTG to support decision making on the use of health technologies within NHSScotland. You can find out more about the work of SHTG on [our website](#).

## What is a health technology?

A health technology is an intervention, product or service developed to prevent, diagnose, or treat medical conditions; promote health; provide rehabilitation; or organise healthcare delivery. The health technology could be a test, device, procedure, or patient pathway.

## What areas of work are covered this quarter?

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular system
- Caring for older people
- Digestive system
- Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic
- Genitourinary system
- Health service organisation and delivery
- Injuries, accidents, and wounds
- Musculoskeletal system
- Nervous system

Advice and guidance is ordered by specialty, categorisation follows the main specialties listed [here](#).

Definitions of the agency products are in the [Glossary](#) section

## What advice is NHSScotland required to consider?

The advice and guidance NHSScotland is **required to consider** is highlighted in the 'Status' column in the table below.

## What next?

Where a technology assessment is relevant to current policy, planning and clinical decisions within NHSScotland and you would like to discuss its application, please [email SHTG](#). If you would like to refer a technology for assessment, please [use this request form](#).

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## Publications

Area of work / Speciality	Technology Assessment	Agency / Product	Date Published / Uploaded	Status in Scotland
Cancer	<a href="#">Low-energy contact X-ray brachytherapy for rectal cancer</a>	NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance	November 2025	NHSScotland required to consider
	<a href="#">GUI071: Thermal ablation of colorectal liver metastases</a>	HTW Guidance	December 2025	For Information
	<a href="#">MAF-gene tests to guide adjuvant bisphosphonate treatment in breast cancer</a>	HTW Guidance	December 2025	For Information
Cardiovascular system	<a href="#">VA ECMO for extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ECPR) in adults with refractory cardiac arrest</a>	NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance	October 2025	NHSScotland required to consider
	<a href="#">VA ECMO for severe acute heart failure in adults</a>	NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance	October 2025	NHSScotland required to consider
	<a href="#">VA ECMO for postcardiotomy cardiogenic shock in adults</a>	NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance	December 2025	NHSScotland required to consider
	<a href="#">Digital platforms to support cardiac rehabilitation: early value assessment</a>	NICE HealthTech guidance	December 2025	For Information

Area of work / Speciality	Technology Assessment	Agency / Product	Date Published / Uploaded	Status in Scotland
	<a href="#">HTA of screening for AAA for men</a>	Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Rapid HTA	December 2025	For Information
<b>Caring for older people</b>	<a href="#">Carer passport schemes</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
<b>Digestive system</b>	<a href="#">Oral neuromuscular training devices for the treatment of dysphagia</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
	<a href="#">Point-of-care portable, digital endoscopes</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
	<a href="#">GUI071: Thermal ablation of colorectal liver metastases</a>	HTW Guidance	December 2025	For Information
<b>Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic</b>	<a href="#">Haemodialysis at home</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
	<a href="#">Digital interventions for chronic kidney disease</a>	HTW Guidance	October 2025	For Information
	<a href="#">Nitric oxide-generating wound dressings</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
<b>Genitourinary system</b>	<a href="#">Haemodialysis at home</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
<b>Health service organisation and delivery</b>	<a href="#">Esaote® extremity MRI scanners</a>	SHTG Innovative Medical Technology Overview	December 2025	NHSScotland required to consider
	<a href="#">HTA of providing a telephone service for acute, non-urgent medical care needs in the pre-hospital setting</a>	Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Rapid HTA	October 2025	For Information
<b>Injuries, accidents, and wounds</b>	<a href="#">Nitric oxide-generating wound dressings</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information
<b>Musculoskeletal System</b>	<a href="#">Esaote® extremity MRI scanners</a>	SHTG Innovative Medical Technology Overview	December 2025	NHSScotland required to consider
	<a href="#">Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to aid opportunistic detection of vertebral fragility fractures: early value assessment</a>	NICE HealthTech guidance	October 2025	For Information

Area of work / Speciality	Technology Assessment	Agency / Product	Date Published / Uploaded	Status in Scotland
Nervous system	<a href="#">At-home video monitoring for epilepsy</a>	HTW Guidance	October 2025	For Information
	<a href="#">Epileptic seizure alarms</a>	HTW Topic Exploration Report	October 2025	For Information

## Acknowledgements

This bulletin was developed by the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) with support from the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) / Health Technology Wales (HTW).

## Glossary

**SHTG Recommendation:** Evidence-based recommendations for how the health technology should be used in the Scottish context, developed by a national advisory council in consultation with stakeholders.

**SHTG Assessment:** Bespoke reviews of health technologies to inform policy and practice across NHSScotland.

**SHTG Scottish Adaptation:** considers applicability to NHSScotland of an HTA conducted elsewhere in the UK or internationally.

**SHTG Innovative Medical Technology Overviews:** summarises emerging evidence surrounding new and innovative technologies.

**NICE Medical technologies guidance:** evaluates digital technologies, diagnostics and medical devices (including artificial intelligence). It considers HealthTech products that are in early development but may offer potential value to the NHS, be suitable for routine widespread use, or are already in existing use in the NHS. It includes guidance on the effectiveness and safety of interventional procedures

**NICE Interventional procedures guidance:** covers procedures used for diagnosis or treatment, considers if they are safe and work well enough for wider use in NHS England, Scotland or Wales

**NICE Medtech Innovation Briefings:** Briefings offer support for considering using new medical devices and other medical or diagnostic technologies.

**NICE diagnostics guidance:** evaluates new, innovative diagnostic technologies. It includes all types of measurements and tests that are used to evaluate a patient's condition.

**NICE Health technology evaluation ((also known as Early Value Assessment, or EVA):** designed to provide recommendations, in the form of NICE guidance, on the use of new and existing medicines, products and treatments in the NHS

**HTW Guidance:** summarises clinical- and cost-effectiveness evidence and implications for the health technology in Wales.

**HTW Topic Exploration Report:** designed to provide a high-level briefing on new topics submitted for consideration in Wales.

**HIQA Advice:** summarises clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence and implications for the health technology in Ireland

**HIQA Other evidence synthesis:** other evidence synthesis includes systematic reviews, rapid reviews, scoping review and other types of analysis

**Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Rapid HTA:** Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is a multidisciplinary process that uses explicit methods to determine the value of a health technology at different points in its lifecycle. The purpose is to inform decision-making in order to promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality health system. A rapid HTA examines a number of domains of the EUnetHTA Core Model (rather than all or most of them).