

ROUND UP OF OUR

**REPORTS,  
REVIEWS AND  
ADVICE**

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Jan - Mar 2022





# **Rolling summary of Omicron evidence, epidemiology and guidance**

**In late January, we updated our rolling reviews on international public health guidance and agency assessments of the evidence in relation to Omicron. We also provided a new report to NPHET on epidemiological data from countries which experienced a high burden of Omicron cases earlier than Ireland.**

## **We found...**

at the time of the review, restrictions (such as limitations on movement) were still widespread across Europe, but that they were beginning to relax.

## **We noted...**

that evidence was growing to suggest that Omicron infections would be associated with less severe disease than previous variants as while the UK and South Africa had experienced peaks in infections, their ICU admissions had remained stable.







# Stop Smoking National Clinical Guideline



In January, we published a Budget Impact Analysis (BIA) which aimed to assess the expected expenditure of implementing the Stop Smoking Clinical Guidelines. It was developed to support the work of the Stop Smoking Guideline Development Group (GDG), who have developed the Stop Smoking National Clinical Guideline.

**We found that the budget impact of the Stop Smoking Guideline was estimated at €29.7 million over a five year period. In comparison, the annual direct cost of smoking to the health service has been estimated at in excess of €460 million.**

**Smoking is the leading cause of preventable mortality, representing one in five of all deaths in Ireland, as well as approximately 1,000 hospital admissions weekly. This adds a substantial economic and social burden to the healthcare system.**





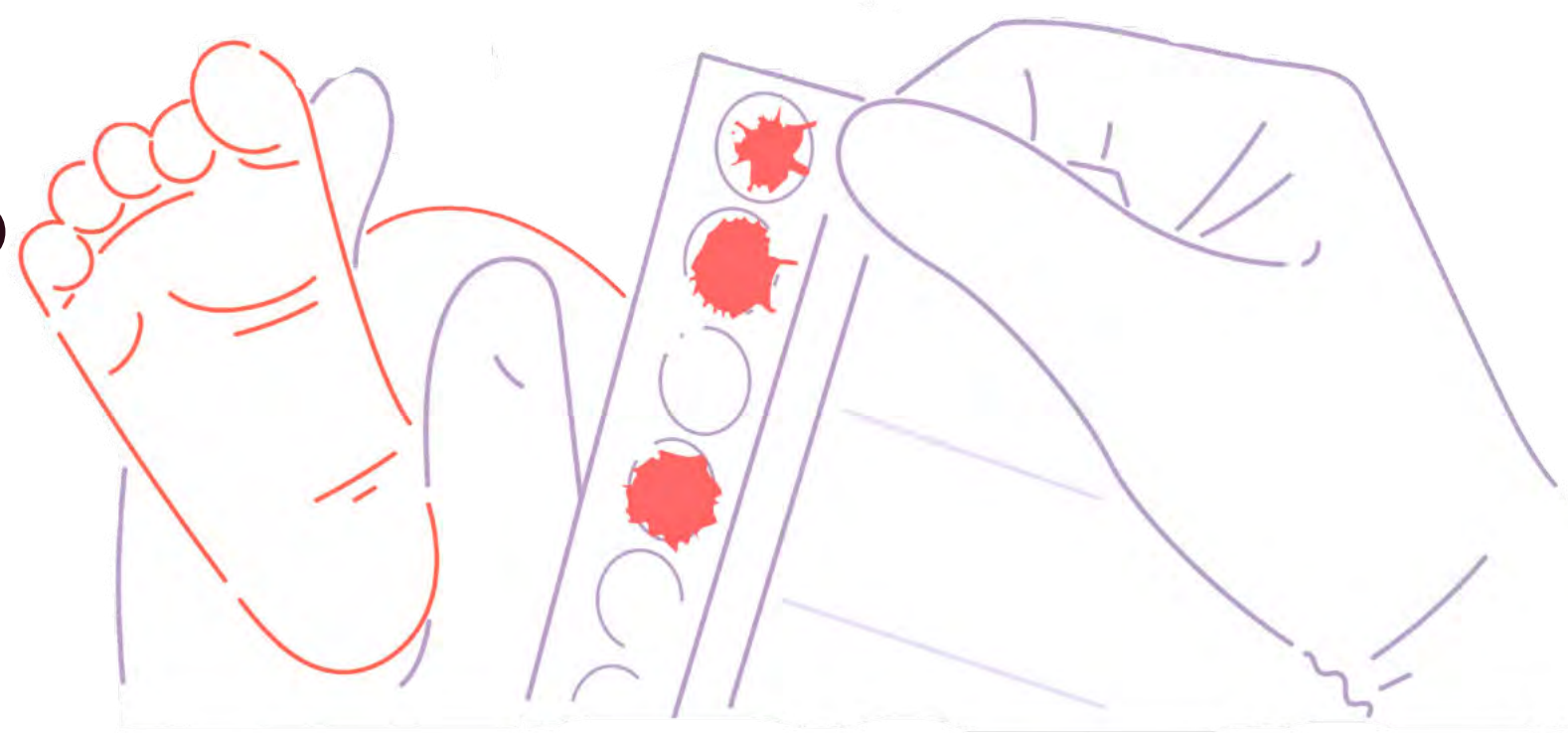
# HTA to review adding SCID to newborn screening

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**We are beginning work on a new health technology assessment (HTA) on potentially adding severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme (NNBSP). In March, we published our protocol for the HTA which explains the processes we will use to answer this question.**

In September 2021, National Screening Advisory Committee requested that HIQA undertake an assessment to examine the clinical, social, economic, organisational and ethical issues related to including all SCID subtypes in the NNBSP.

SCID is a rare genetic condition, which causes a child to have a very weak immune system, and therefore be very vulnerable to infection.



The full health technology assessment will be published in due course.





# Metabolic surgery as treatment for Type 2 diabetes and obesity

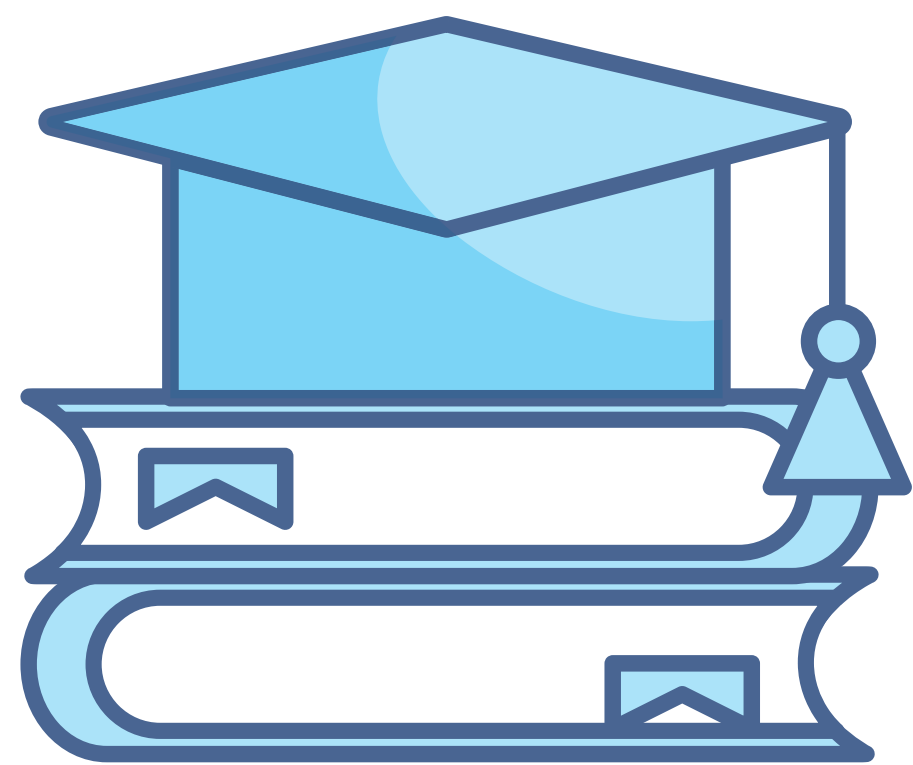
**Work is ongoing on a health technology assessment (HTA) of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes (T2D) and obesity.**

Bariatric surgery involves modifying the stomach and intestines to treat obesity. The term metabolic surgery refers to the use of these surgical procedures in the treatment of metabolic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.

## The aim of the assessment is to...

establish the clinical and cost-effectiveness of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity in Ireland and estimate the budget impact, organisational and resource implications associated with its introduction.





# Academic Publications

**In March, we made our academic publications available on our website.**

**The dedicated webpage houses our staff's peer-reviewed academic publications in the hopes of making this research more accessible for researchers and members of the public alike.**

As part of our vision to inform safer services, better care and decisions and provide independent assessment, we regularly undertake research and publish our work in peer-reviewed academic journals







# Academic Publications

## **Effectiveness of rapid antigen testing for screening of asymptomatic individuals to limit the transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A rapid review**

**Date of publication:** 29 Mar 2022

**Journal:** Reviews in Medical Virology

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2350

## **ADAPTE with modified Delphi supported developing a National Clinical Guideline: Stratification of Clinical Risk in Pregnancy**

**Date of publication:** 17 Mar 2022

**Journal:** Journal of clinical epidemiology

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2022.03.005

## **Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by children: a rapid review, 30 December 2019 to 10 August 2020**

**Date of publication:** 27 Feb 2022

**Journal:** Eurosurveillance

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.5.2001651

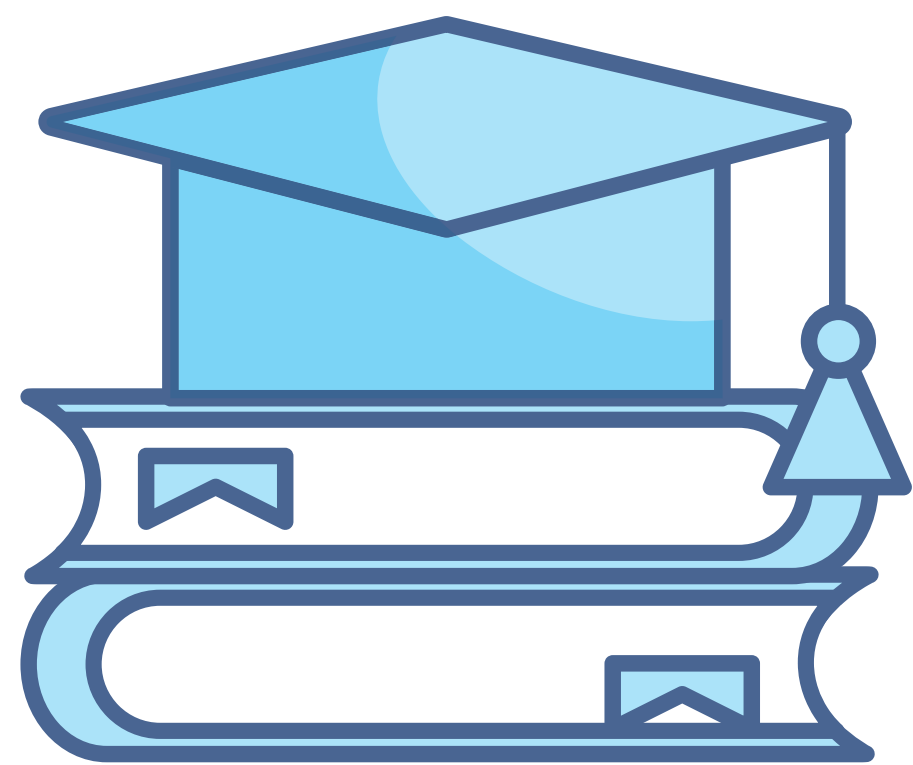
## **Challenges encountered during the systematic review of newer and enhanced influenza vaccines and recommendations for the future**

**Date of publication:** 22 Feb 2022

**Journal:** Reviews in Medical Virology

**Digital object identifier:** doi.org/10.1002/rmv.2335





# Academic Publications

**Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of MF59 adjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals  $\geq 18$  years of age**

**iDate of publication:** 10 Feb 2022

**Journal:** Reviews in Medical Virology

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2329

**Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of cell-based seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals  $\geq 18$  years of age**

**Date of publication:** 08 Feb 2022

**Journal:** Reviews in Medical Virology

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2332

**Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of high-dose seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals  $\geq 18$  years of age**

**Date of publication:** 04 Feb 2022

**Journal:** Reviews in Medical Virology

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2330

**Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of recombinant haemagglutinin seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals  $\geq 18$  years of age**

**Date of publication:** 02 Feb 2022

**Journal:** Reviews in Medical Virology

**Digital object identifier:** DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2331



# Conferences

**Our HTA directorate attend conferences throughout the year, and frequently present their work or host workshops or showcase posters.**



Members of our HTA directorate team attend conferences throughout the year, and frequently present their work or host workshops or showcase posters. Members of the directorate presented posters at the SPHeRE Network 8th Annual Conference in March. The conference theme this year was Wicked Policy problems - Pulling back the curtain.

- Dr Kieran Walsh, Senior HTA Analyst, presented our review of the real-world evidence on the effectiveness of rapid antigen testing for screening of asymptomatic individuals to limit the spread of SARS-CoV-2.
- Dr Melissa Sharp, postdoctoral research collaborator at the Royal College of Surgeons presented on a mixed-methods systematic review which explored the effectiveness and acceptability of evidence synthesis summary formats for clinical guidelines development groups.
- Dr Helen O'Donnell, Senior HTA Analyst, presented our review of the duration of protective immunity following COVID-19 vaccination.
- Dr Karen Cardwell, Senior HTA Analyst, presented a systematic review of the most recent clinical guideline update processes, used by international or national groups that provide methods guidance for developing and updating clinical guidelines.
- Karen Jordan, Health Services Researcher, presented our health technology assessment of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity that is currently underway.
- Dr Susan Spillane, Head of Assessment, presented our review of international processes used to inform policy-making on the expansion of newborn bloodspot screening programmes.





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