



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Protocol for the catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning

15 August 2022

Safer Better Care

About the Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory authority established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

HIQA's mandate to date extends across a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector services. Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of health services and children's social services, and investigating as necessary serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use these services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.
- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Table of contents

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | Purpose and aim | 2 |
| 2 | Process outline | 2 |
| 2.1 | Search of relevant data sources..... | 2 |
| 2.2 | Extraction of relevant data | 2 |
| 2.3 | Collate and present information retrieved | 3 |
| | References | 4 |
| | Appendix 1: List of websites..... | 5 |

1 Purpose and aim

At the request of the COVID-19 Advisory Group (CAG), the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) will undertake a targeted review to identify and catalogue relevant national and international institutions and organisations that are undertaking horizon scanning for evidence for emerging COVID-19 health technologies, practices and interventions. These health technologies include COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines and other health technologies. The purpose of this protocol is to outline the process by which HIQA will produce this catalogue.

2 Process outline

Three distinct steps in the process have been identified. These are listed below and described in more detail in Sections 2.1-2.3:

1. Search of relevant data sources
2. Extraction of relevant data
3. Collate and present information retrieved.

2.1 Search of relevant data sources

The websites of national and international organisations and institutions will be searched to identify which groups are undertaking horizon scanning for emerging COVID-19 health technologies. The selected websites are based on sources previously compiled as part of HIQA's database of public health guidance on COVID-19,⁽¹⁾ and supplemented by targeted searching identified through further scoping. These websites are listed in Appendix 1. Horizon scanning activities which have not been updated in more than six months will be excluded.

2.2 Extraction of relevant data

Upon identification of a group conducting relevant horizon scanning, the following data will be extracted, where available:

- name and funding source of the organisation
- scope of the horizon scanning being conducted (for example, the health technologies included)
- interval or frequency with which the horizon scanning is conducted
- date of last update
- how and to whom the information is disseminated.

2.3 Collate and present information retrieved

The extracted data will be collated and presented, including descriptions of the information identified and hyperlinks to the relevant sources. This information will be provided by spreadsheet, tabular or report format.

References

1. Health Information and Quality Authority. Database of public health guidance on COVID-19 [updated 16.12.2021]. Available from: <https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and-publications/health-technology-assessment/covid-19-public-health-guidance-database>.

Appendix 1: List of websites

The below list of websites will be searched:

- Australian Partnership for Preparedness Research on Infectious Disease Emergencies (APPRISE), <https://www.apprise.org.au/project/fast-tracked-new-covid-19-projects-meet-areas-of-urgent-need/>
- Austria Institute for Health Technology Assessment (AIHTA), <https://aihta.at/page/homepage/en>
- BMJ COVID-19 Best Practice Guidelines (BMJ), <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000168/guidelines>
- British Medical Journal (BMJ), <https://www.bmj.com/coronavirus>
- Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), <https://covid.cadth.ca/>
- (US) Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>
- Centre for Effective Practice (Primary Care) (CEP), <https://cep.health/insights/covid-19/>
- Centre for Evidence Based Medicine (CEBM), <https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/>
- Centre for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/infectious-disease-topics/covid-19>
- Cochrane, <https://covidrapidreviews.cochrane.org/>
- COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19), <https://cord-19.apps.allenai.org/>
- EPPI Centre Database, <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/Projects/DepartmentofHealthandSocialCare/Publishereviews/>
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/>
- European Medicines Agency (EMA), <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/treatments-vaccines-covid-19>
- EvidenceAid, <https://www.evidenceaid.org/coronavirus-covid-19-evidence-collection/>
- Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home.html>
- Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), <https://thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en>

- Health Protection Scotland (HPS), <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>
- Health Service Executive (HSE),
<https://hse.drsteevenslibrary.ie/Covid19V2/home>,
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/rapid-evidence-reviews.html>,
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/guidance-documents.html>
- Health Technology Wales (HTW), <https://www.healthtechnology.wales/covid-19/>
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS),
http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/
- Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), <https://www.idsociety.org/public-health/COVID-19-Resource-Center/covid19-expanded-resource-center/>
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), <http://www.ihl.org/Topics/COVID-19/>
- Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM),
<https://www.ispm.unibe.ch/>
- International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI),
<https://ianphi.org/news/2020/covid-resources.html>
- International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO),
<https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/>
- JAMA Network (JAMA),
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/pages/coronavirus-alert#clinical-information>
- Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI), <https://jbi.global/ebp/covid-19>
- Johns Hopkins, <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
- Joule (a Canadian Medical Association subsidiary), <https://joulecma.ca/>
- McMaster University, <https://plus.mcmaster.ca/COVID-19/About>
- MedBox, <https://www.medbox.org/toolbox/5E6EA419CA7A4>
- National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT),
<https://www.nccmt.ca/knowledge-repositories/covid-19-evidence-reviews>
- National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce, <https://covid19evidence.net.au/>
- National Health Library & Knowledge Service (NHLKS),
<https://hselibrary.ie/covid19-evidence-summaries/>
- National Healthcare Institute (ZIN), <http://www.zorginstituutnederland.nl/>

- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), <https://www.nice.org.uk/covid-19>
- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/urgent-public-health-studies-covid-19.htm>
- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Innovation Observatory, <https://www.io.nihr.ac.uk/horizon-scanning/>
- National Institute for Infectious Diseases (NIID), <https://www.niid.go.jp/niid/en/>
- National Institutes of Health - US National Library of Medicine (NIH), <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19>
- Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), https://www.nornesk.no/forskningskart/NIPH_mainMap.html
- Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI), <https://www.ohdsi.org/covid-19-updates/>
- Patient-Centred Outcomes Research Institute, <https://horizonscandb.pcori.org/search?documentType=topics>
- Public Health England Knowledge & Library Services (PHEKLS), <https://phelibrary.koha-ptfs.co.uk/coronavirusinformation/>
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/key-topics/covid-19>
- Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (NUS), <https://sph.nus.edu.sg/covid-19/>
- Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU), <https://www.sbu.se/en/>
- TRIP Database, <https://www.tripdatabase.com/>
- US Food and Drug Administration, <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- Veteran Affairs Evidence Synthesis Program (VAESP), <http://www.covid19reviews.org/index.cfm>
- World Health Organization (WHO), <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

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