



**Health  
Information  
and Quality  
Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis  
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

# **Knowledge Sharing and Impact Assessment**

Health Technology Assessment Directorate

**2022 REPORT**

## 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.

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## Overview of Health Technology Assessment Directorate

Health technology assessments (HTAs) are designed to inform safe and effective health policies that are both patient-focused and achieve best value for money. HTA is a multidisciplinary activity that requires a broad range of expertise, comprehensive evidence synthesis and data analysis, and ongoing stakeholder engagement. HTA can cover a range of fields, including clinical effectiveness and safety, cost effectiveness and budget impact, organisational and social aspects, and ethical and legal issues.

The Health Act 2007 outlines the statutory functions of HIQA and this underpins the basis for the conduct of HTAs.

These functions are:

1. To evaluate the clinical and cost effectiveness of health technologies including drugs and provide advice arising out of the evaluation to the Minister and the Executive.
2. At the request or with the approval of the Minister to review and make recommendations as the Authority thinks fit in respect of the services, to ensure the best outcomes for the resources available to the Executive.
3. To evaluate available information respecting the services and the health and welfare of the population.

The work of the HTA Directorate in 2022 was broadly classified into five main functions:

- Core Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- Health Research Board – Collaboration in Ireland for Clinical Effectiveness Reviews (HRB-CICER) to support development of National Clinical Guidelines
- Screening HTA
- COVID-19 evidence synthesis
- Generic justification of ionising radiation practices

### Core HTA

The core HTA function informs investment and disinvestment decisions by the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE) on a broad range of health technologies. A health technology is defined as an intervention developed to prevent, diagnose or treat medical conditions; promote health; provide rehabilitation; or organise healthcare delivery. The intervention can be a diagnostic test, device, medicine, vaccine, procedure, programme, or system. The core HTA

function works to ensure that the best available evidence is presented to support decision-making in order to promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality health system.

### **HRB-CICER**

HRB-CICER conducts evidence synthesis to inform the development of National Clinical Guidelines, by guideline development groups. The HRB-CICER team comprises a dedicated multidisciplinary research team supported by staff from the HTA Directorate and Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Trinity College Dublin, as well as national and international clinical and methodological experts. The National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) is a ministerially appointed committee made up of representatives from various interested parties from healthcare in Ireland and provides a framework for developing clinical guidelines and audit. Through the NCEC, the Minister for Health in Ireland approves National Clinical Guidelines and National Clinical Audits. These are then implemented in the public healthcare system by the HSE.

### **Screening HTA**

Since 2021, the Screening HTA Team in HIQA has provided evidence synthesis (including HTAs) and evidence-informed advice to support the work of the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC). The NSAC is an independent advisory committee which advises the Minister for Health and Department of Health on all new proposals for population-based screening programmes and revisions to existing programmes.

### **COVID-19**

In March 2020, HIQA established a COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team within its HTA Directorate. With the support of its COVID-19 Expert Advisory Group (EAG), the team conducts evidence synthesis to inform national strategic decision-making. In 2022, evidence syntheses were performed at the request of the Department of Health, the National Public Health Emergency Team, the COVID-19 Advisory Group and groups tasked with the national COVID-19 response. This work helps ensure rapid access to the best available evidence relevant to SARS-CoV-2 to inform decision-making at each stage of the pandemic.

### **Generic Justification of Ionising Radiation Practices**

Directive 2013/59/Euratom (Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Dangers Arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) was transposed into Irish law on 8 January 2019. Under the new regulations, HIQA has responsibility for the generic justification of new types of practices involving medical exposure to Ionising Radiation (IR) as well as the review of existing practices under certain circumstances. HIQA also has responsibility for the specific justification of IR

performed as part of a health screening programme or individual health assessment and to publish guidelines in relation to the screening of asymptomatic individuals outside of existing national health screening programmes. To fulfil HIQA's statutory responsibilities in relation to generic justification, HIQA established a new HTA Directorate function, the IR function, in 2021. Work on the processes underpinning the function commenced in 2022 including publication of Methods for Generic Justification of New Practices in Ionising Radiation and the establishment of the Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation (MEIR) Expert Advisory Group. In 2023, HIQA officially commenced its generic justification function.

Image 1: Members of the HTA Directorate at a directorate away day in Limerick (May 2022)



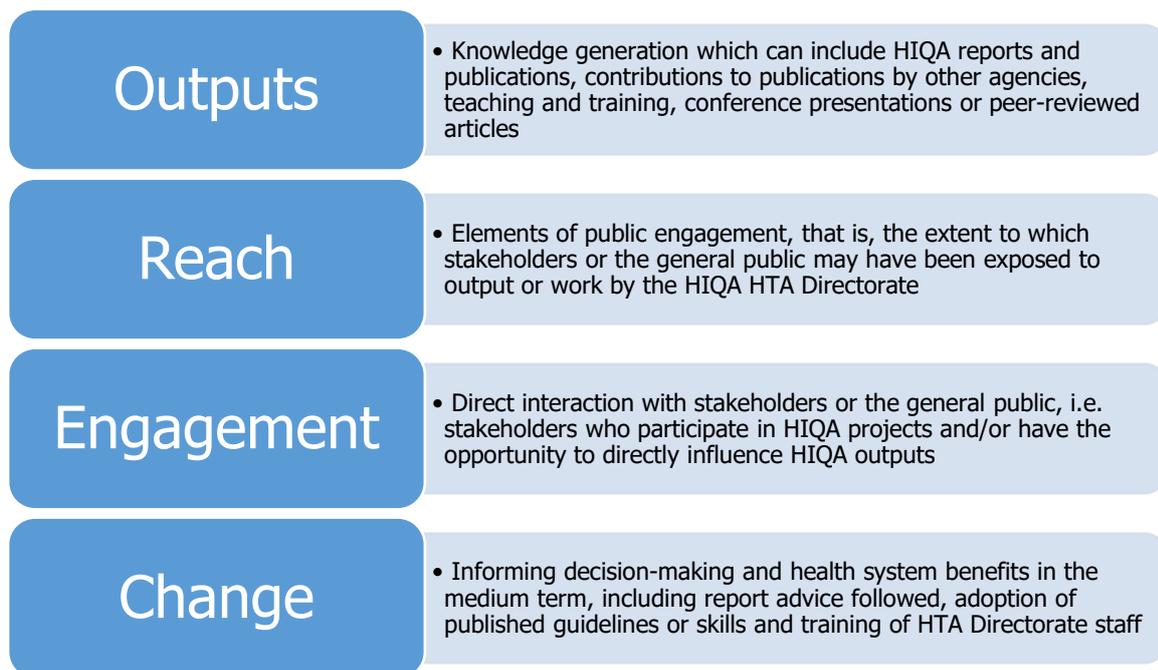
Image 2: HTA staff participating in the directorate away day workshops



## 1. Introduction

The impact or influence of HTA Directorate activity is evaluated to assess its value, and whether its contribution to decision-making is proportionate to the resources used to deliver it. Accordingly, this report follows the HTA knowledge sharing and influence measurement framework developed by the HTA Directorate and approved by the Board of HIQA in 2019. The framework outlines a broad set of metrics capturing different facets of knowledge sharing and influence across all HTA Directorate activity. The framework is only designed to capture short or medium-term impacts. Long-term health and health service related or economic influence cannot be captured within this framework due to the time-lag associated with the emergence of these impacts, and the challenges in attributing such impacts or outcomes to a specific activity of the HTA Directorate. It is important to note that benefits are likely to accumulate over time, so the reported impact is dependent on the time point at which it was measured. This report documents the impact metrics for 2022.

**Figure 1. Metrics for measuring impact of HTA Directorate activity**



## 2. Outputs

Outputs refer to knowledge generation which can include HIQA reports and publications, contributions to publications by other agencies, teaching and training, and other forms of dissemination such as conference presentations or peer-reviewed articles. The following lists the outputs of the HTA Directorate in 2022, categorised by deliverable type.

### COVID-19 reports published

- Evidence summaries provided to NPHE:
  - [Rolling review of International Public Health Guidance in relation to the Omicron variant \(B.1.1.529\)](#)
  - [International epidemiological data in relation to the Omicron \(B.1.1.529\) variant](#)
  - [Update on international public health agency assessments of the evidence in relation to the Omicron \(B.1.1.529\) variant](#)
- Epidemiological analysis provided to the Department of Health:
  - [Descriptive analysis of COVID-19 epidemiological indicators and associated contextual factors in European countries](#)
- Epidemiological analysis and modelling report provided to the COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel:
  - [Factors associated with outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in nursing homes](#)
- Evidence summary provided to the Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group:
  - [High level review of configuration and reform of Public Health systems in selected countries](#)
- Evidence summaries provided to the COVID-19 Advisory Group:
  - [Catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning](#)
  - [Planned public health measures and strategies to limit the impact of COVID19 surges: an international review](#)
- Evidence summary provided to the Health Service Executive:
  - [International review of clinical guidelines and models of care for long COVID](#)

### HTA reports published

- [Health technology assessment metabolic surgery for the treatment of comorbid type 2 diabetes and obesity](#)
- [Repatriation of paediatric haematopoietic stem cell transplant services to Ireland: Protocol for a health technology assessment](#)
- [Expansion of the childhood immunisation schedule to include varicella \(chickenpox\) vaccination: Protocol for a health technology assessment](#)

### Screening reports published

- [Protocol for the health technology assessment of the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency \(SCID\) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme](#)
- [Health Technology Assessment of the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency \(SCID\) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme\\*](#)

\*Advice provided to NSAC in 2022, report published in 2023

### Contributions of sections to reports published/due for publication by the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC)

- [National Clinical Guideline Stop Smoking](#)
  - Budget impact analysis
- [National Clinical Guideline Unexpected Intraoperative Life Threatening Haemorrhage](#)
  - Systematic review
  - Budget impact analysis
- [Systematic review of update processes for guidelines](#)

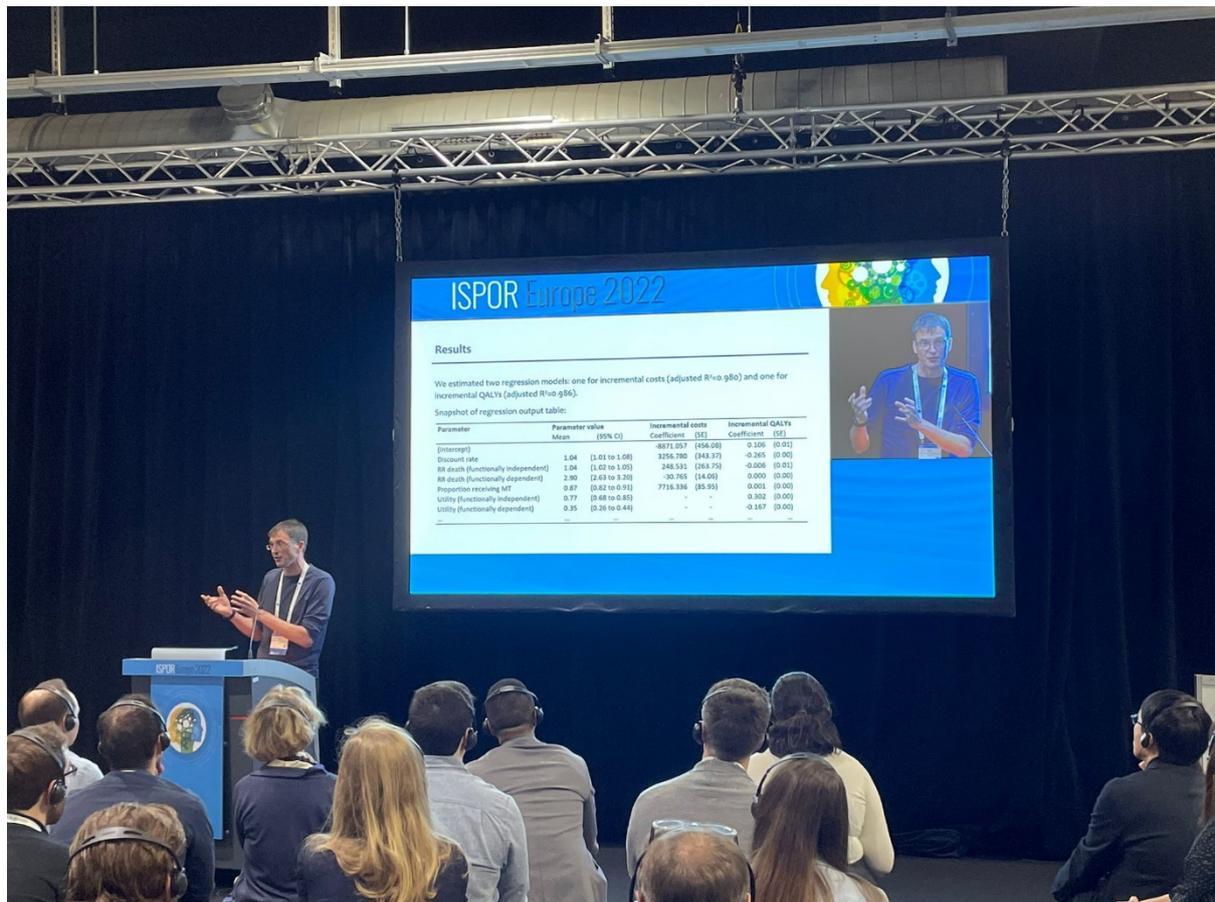
### Teaching delivered

- Public Health Medicine Specialist Registrars, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
- Pharmacy (BPharm) students, University College Cork
- Pharmacy (MSc Pharm) students, Trinity College Dublin
- MSc Health Economics, National University of Ireland Galway
- BSc Physiotherapy students, Trinity College Dublin
- Diploma in Health Economics, Institute of Public Administration

### Conference oral presentations and workshops delivered

- Prize winning oral presentation
  - Teljeur C, Ryan M. Using Regression to Represent an Economic Model to Support Sensitivity Analyses. ISPOR Europe 2022.
- Workshop
  - Cardwell K, Broderick N, McManus L, Tyner B, Masukume G, Harrington P, Connolly M, Larkin L, Clyne B, Sharp M, Ryan M, O'Neill M. [Lessons from the response to COVID-19 to inform strengthening of Essential Public Health Functions](#). European Public Health 2022.
  - Overview of NCEC guideline development and quality assurance process. National Patient Safety Office (NPSO) conference 2022.

Image 3: Dr Conor Teljeur's award winning presentation for Best Research Podium Presentation Award at ISPOR Europe 2022



### Conference posters presented

- Poster presentation
  - Spillane S, Laura Comber, Kirsty O'Brien, Katie O'Brien, Barrie Tyner, Patricia Harrington, Máirín Ryan. [Review of processes in use to inform policy-making on the expansion of newborn bloodspot screening \(NBS\) programmes](#). SPHeRE 2022.
  - Walsh K, Broderick N, Ahern A, Fawsitt C.G, O'Brien K.M, Carrigan M, Harrington P, O'Neill M, Smith S.M, Spillane S, Teljeur C, Ryan M. [Effectiveness of rapid antigen testing for screening of asymptomatic individuals to limit the transmission of SARS-CoV-2: a rapid review](#). SPHeRE 2022.
  - K Cardwell; J Quigley; B Clyne; B Tyner; M Carrigan; SM Smith; M Ryan; M O'Neill. [Processes for updating guidelines: a systematic review](#). SPHeRE 2022
  - Jordan K, O'Donnell H, Byrne D, Hyland N, Cardwell K, Byrne P, Clyne B, Teljeur C, Harrington P, Ryan P. [Clinical efficacy and safety of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity: A systematic review](#). SPHeRE 2022.
  - Jordan K, Fawsitt CG, Carty PG, Clyne B, Teljeur C, Harrington P, Ryan P. [Cost-effectiveness of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity: A systematic review of economic evaluations](#). SPHeRE 2022.

- O'Donnell H, Walsh KA, O'Loughlin M, O'Brien KM, Broderick N, Eames H, Jiang J, Carrigan M, O'Brien K, Quigley J, Cardwell K, Comber L, Ó Murchú E, Smith SM, Harrington P, O'Neill M, Ryan M. [Duration of protective immunity following COVID-19 vaccination: A rapid review](#). SPHeRE 2022.
- Sharp MK, Baki DABA, Quigley J, Tyner B, Devane D, Mahtani KR, Smith SM, O'Neill M, Ryan M, Clyne B. [The effectiveness and acceptability of evidence synthesis summary formats for clinical guidelines development groups: A mixed methods systematic review](#). SPHeRE 2022.
- Tyner B, Cardwell K, Plunkett T, Cormican M, Clyne B, Quigley J, Comber L, Carrigan M, Smith S.M, O'Neill M, Ryan M. Effectiveness of all single-patient room accommodation in reducing incidence of hospital-acquired infection in general acute settings: a systematic review. National Patient Safety Office 2022.
- Cardwell K, McLoughlin C, Walsh K, Tyner B, Ryan M, O'Neill M. Processes for updating guidelines: a systematic review. National Patient Safety Office 2022
- El Sheikh Idris A, Jordan K, Clyne B, Ryan M. A review of international approaches to HTA: how do mechanisms of stakeholder engagement and research dissemination differ? National Patient Safety Office 2022.
- Merriman NA, Cardwell K, Tyner B, McLoughlin C, Carrigan M, Harrington P, Ryan M, O'Neill M. Protocol for an international review of clinical guidelines and models of care for long COVID. National Patient Safety Office 2022.
- Jordan K, Teljeur C, Clyne B, Harrington P, Ryan M. Budget impact analysis of metabolic surgery compared with best medical care for the treatment of comorbid type 2 diabetes and obesity. ISPOR Europe 2022.
- Jordan K, Teljeur C, Clyne B, Harrington P, Ryan M. Cost-utility analysis of metabolic surgery compared with best medical care for the treatment of comorbid type 2 diabetes and obesity. ISPOR Europe 2022.
- Byrne D, Comber L, Carty P, Finnegan E, Weir A, Harrington P, Ryan M, Spillane S. Systematic Review of the Accuracy of T-Cell Receptor Excision Circle (TREC)-Based Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). ISPOR Europe 2022.
- Finnegan E, Comber L, Carty P, Byrne D, Weir A, Harrington P, Ryan M, Spillane S. Systematic Review of the Impact of Early Versus Late Diagnosis and/or Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). ISPOR Europe 2022.
- Harrington P, Spillane S, O'Neill M, Teljeur C, Ryan M. Incorporating Litigation Costs in Economic Evaluation. ISPOR Europe 2022
- Teljeur C, Ryan M. The Evolution of Peer Reviewed Publications on the Subject of Economic Evaluation. ISPOR Europe 2022.
- Teljeur C, Ryan M. Patterns of Author Collaboration in Published Cost-Effectiveness Analyses. ISPOR Europe 2022.
- O'Sullivan L, O'Brien K, Dullea A, McGarry M, Spillane S, Harrington P, Ryan M. Generic Justification of Medical Exposures to Ionising Radiation. Irish Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy 2022.
- Conference abstract publications

- Health Information and Quality Authority, WHO, Department of Health in Ireland , Chair persons: Michelle O'Neill (Ireland), Ronan Glynn (Ireland), 4.A. Workshop: [Lessons from the response to COVID-19 to inform strengthening of Essential Public Health Functions](#), *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 32, Issue Supplement\_3, October 2022, ckac129.204
- Jordan K, Teljeur C, Clyne B, Harrington P and Ryan M., 2022. EE182 [Budget Impact Analysis of Metabolic Surgery Compared With Best Medical Care for the Treatment of Comorbid Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity](#). *Value in Health*, 25(12), pp.S88-S89
- Jordan K, Teljeur C, Clyne B, Harrington P, Ryan, M. 2022. EE675 [Cost-Utility Analysis of Metabolic Surgery Compared With Best Medical Care for the Treatment of Comorbid Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity](#). *Value in Health*, 25(12), p.S189.
- Teljeur C, Ryan M. P29 [Using Regression to Represent an Economic Model to Support Sensitivity Analyses](#). *Value in Health*. 2022 Dec 1;25(12):S7.
- Byrne D, Comber L, Carty P, Finnegan E, Weir A, Harrington P, Ryan M, Spillane S. [EPH201 Systematic Review of the Accuracy of T-Cell Receptor Excision Circle \(TREC\)-Based Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency \(SCID\)](#). *Value in Health*. 2022 Dec 1;25(12):S229.
- Finnegan E, Comber L, Carty P, Byrne D, Weir A, Harrington P, Ryan M, Spillane S. [CO134 Systematic Review of the Impact of Early Versus Late Diagnosis and/or Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation \(HSCT\) for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency \(SCID\)](#). *Value in Health*. 2022 Dec 1;25(12):S44.
- Harrington P, Spillane S, O'Neill M, Teljeur C, Ryan M. [EE249 Incorporating Litigation Costs in Economic Evaluation](#). *Value in Health*. 2022 Dec 1;25(12):S102.
- Teljeur C, Ryan M. [EE535 The Evolution of Peer Reviewed Publications on the Subject of Economic Evaluation](#). *Value in Health*. 2022 Dec 1;25(12):S161.
- Teljeur C, Ryan M. [EE536 Patterns of Author Collaboration in Published Cost-Effectiveness Analyses](#). *Value in Health*. 2022 Dec 1;25(12):S161.

### Peer-reviewed publications

- Walsh KA, Broderick N, Ahern S, Fawsitt CG, O'Brien KM, Carrigan M, Harrington P, O'Neill M, Smith SM, Spillane S, Teljeur C. 2022. [Effectiveness of rapid antigen testing for screening of asymptomatic individuals to limit the transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A rapid review](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 32(5), p.e2350.
- McAloon CG, Dahly D, Walsh C, Wall P, Smyth B, More SJ, Teljeur C. 2022. [Potential Application of SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests for the Detection of Infectious Individuals Attending Mass Gatherings—A Simulation Study](#). *Frontiers in Epidemiology*, 2
- Carty PG, Teljeur C, De Gascun CF, Gillespie P, Harrington P, McCormick A, O'Neill M, Smith SM, Ryan M. 2022. [Another Step Toward Hepatitis C Elimination: An Economic](#)

[Evaluation of an Irish National Birth Cohort Testing Program.](#) *Value in Health*, 25(12), pp.1947-1957.

- Jordan K, Fawsitt CG, Carty PG, Clyne B, Teljeur C, Harrington P, Ryan M. 2022. [Cost-effectiveness of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity: a systematic review of economic evaluations.](#) *The European Journal of Health Economics*, pp.1-16.
- Ahern S, Walsh KA, Paone S, Browne J, Carrigan M, Harrington P, Murphy A, Teljeur C, Ryan M. 2023. [Clinical efficacy and effectiveness of alternative varicella vaccination strategies: An overview of reviews.](#) *Reviews in medical virology*, 33(1), p.e2407.
- Ahern S, Walsh KA, Paone S, Browne J, Carrigan M, Harrington P, Murphy A, Teljeur C, Ryan M. 2023. [Safety of varicella vaccination strategies: An overview of reviews.](#) *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(2), p.e2416.
- Sharp MK, Baki DABA, Quigley J, Tyner B, Devane D, Mahtani KR, Smith SM, O'Neill M, Ryan M, Clyne B. 2022. [The effectiveness and acceptability of evidence synthesis summary formats for clinical guideline development groups: a mixed-methods systematic review.](#) *Implementation Science*, 17(1), pp.1-20.
- Dunbar P, Hazelwood E, Wang Q, McMahon M, Walsh KA, Keyes LM. 2022. [Incidence and type of restrictive practice use in residential disability facilities in Ireland, a cross-sectional study.](#) *Health & Social Care in the Community*.
- Dunbar P, McMahon M, Durkan C, Walsh KA, Keyes LM. [Incidence and type of restrictive practice use in nursing homes in Ireland.](#) *BMC Geriatr* 22, 802 (2022).
- Clyne B, Tyner B, O'Neill M, Jordan K, Carty PG, Phillips MK, Power K, Turner MJ, Smith SM, Ryan M. 2022. [ADAPTE with modified Delphi supported developing a National Clinical Guideline: stratification of clinical risk in pregnancy.](#) *J Clin Epidemiol*. Jul;147:21-31.
- Clyne B, Jordan K, Ahern S, Walsh KA, Byrne P, Carty PG, Drummond L, O'Brien KK, Smith SM, Harrington P, Ryan M, O'Neill M. 2022. [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by children: a rapid review, 30 December 2019 to 10 August 2020.](#) *Euro Surveill*. 27(5):2001651.
- Clyne B, Hynes L, Kirwan C, McGeehan M, Byrne P, Killilea M, Smith SM, Ryan M, Collins C, O'Neill M, Wallace E. 2023. [Perspectives on the production, and use, of rapid evidence in decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative study.](#) *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*, 28(1), pp.48-57.
- Murchu EO, Marshall L, Teljeur C, Harrington P, Hayes C, Moran P, Ryan M. 2022. [Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) to prevent HIV: a systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical effectiveness, safety, adherence and risk compensation in all populations.](#) *BMJ open*, 12(5), p.e048478.
- Teljeur C, Comber L, Jordan K, Murchu EO, Harrington P, O'Neill M, Ryan M. 2022. [Challenges encountered during the systematic review of newer and enhanced influenza vaccines and recommendations for the future.](#) *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 32(5), p.e2335.
- Comber L, Jordan K, Hawkshaw S, Marshall L, O'Neill M, Ryan M, Teljeur C, Carnahan A, Pérez JJ, Robertson AH, Johansen K. 2022. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of MF59® adjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccines for the](#)

[prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, pp.e2329-e2329.

- Jordan K, Murchu EO, Comber L, Hawkshaw S, Marshall L, O'Neill M, Teljeur C, Harrington P, Carnahan A, Pérez-Martín JJ, Robertson AH, A.H. 2023. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of cell-based seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(3), p.e2332.
- Comber L, O Murchu E, Jordan K, Hawkshaw S, Marshall L, O'Neill M, Teljeur C, Ryan M, Carnahan A, Perez Martin JJ, Robertson AH. 2023. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of high-dose seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(3), p.e2330.
- O Murchu E, Comber L, Jordan K, Hawkshaw S, Marshall L, O'Neill M, Ryan M, Teljeur C, Carnahan A, Pérez JJ, Robertson AH. 2023. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of recombinant haemagglutinin seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(3), p.e2331.
- Larkin J, Walsh B, Moriarty F, Clyne B, Harrington P, Smith SM. 2022. [What is the impact of multimorbidity on out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure among community-dwelling older adults in Ireland? A cross-sectional study](#) *BMJ Open*. 2022 Sep 1;12(9):e060502

### Invited presentations given

- Invited oral presentation
  - A Dullea, L O'Sullivan, K O'Brien, M McGarry, S Spillane, P Harrington, M Ryan. HTA Ionising Radiation function. Irish Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy 2022.
  - K Walsh, P Harrington. Evidence synthesis for Antimicrobial Resistance. Building One Health Action under INAP2. 2022.
- Invited panel discussion
  - M Ryan, P Harrington. Co-Chairs of panel discussion National Clinical Advisors and Group Leads/ National Clinical Programmes – Recovery, Resilience, Reform. HSE National Clinical Programmes Conference Day Recovery, Resilience and Reform 2022.
  - P Harrington. Panel Discussion. Building One Health Action under INAP2. 2022.

### Vignette 1

In September 2020, HIQA commenced providing evidence-based advice directly to the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) on behalf of the Minister for Health. To inform the development of the advice to NPHE, a COVID-19 Expert Advisory Group (EAG)

comprising nominated representatives from the relevant clinical and public health stakeholder groups, patient representation and methodological expertise was established. The HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team has provided reports to the COVID-19 EAG from 2020 to 2023. In response to the work conducted by the COVID-19 Team in 2022, an EAG member commented:

- “Well done to your team for their excellent work. You have a fabulous group of researchers, it’s a real pleasure to work with you all.”

The feedback provided indicates that there is a high degree of satisfaction with the work of the HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team, and this is frequently stated by members of the COVID-19 Expert Advisory Group.

In addition to the work presented to the COVID-19 EAG, the COVID-19 Team also conducted an international review of planned public health measures and strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19 surges and developed a catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning which were submitted to the COVID-19 Advisory Group. In response to the work, an EAG member commented:

- “Thanks again to you and the team for your work on this – it was really interesting and very useful”

The HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team also produced a report for the Public Health Reform EAG, a high-level review of configuration and reform of public health systems in selected countries. The Public Health Reform EAG was established by Minister for Health in Ireland in January 2022 to identify international best practice and lessons learned regarding the systems and structures that deliver core Public Health functions.

In response to this work the following feedback was received from the PHREAG:

- “This further demonstrates the contribution of the HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team to the COVID-19 response and examination of the public health system in Ireland in 2020, 2021 and 2022.”

Two further reports were produced at the request of the Health Service Executive, the *International review of guidance on the use of face masks to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection* and the *International review of clinical guidelines and models of care for Long COVID* reports. Feedback on the latter report included:

- “A great draft and thanks to you and your team for your diligence in carrying this through in such a short timeframe. Given the degree of imprecision surrounding the definition alone, I can appreciate the amount of work this involved.”

## Vignette 2

The National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) is an independent advisory committee which advises the Minister and Department of Health on all new proposals for population-based screening programmes and revisions to existing programmes. The Committee plays a significant strategic role in the development and consideration of population-based screening programmes in Ireland. At the request of NSAC, the HIQA Screening HTA Team undertakes evidence synthesis. In 2022, this activity included the HTA of the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) to the HSE National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme as well as the production of scoping reports considering the expansion of the age range of eligibility within each of BreastCheck and BowelScreen. The NSAC's Chairperson Prof Niall O'Higgins noted in the Chairperson's note on 13 April 2022:

- "May I also take this opportunity to commend your team and colleagues in HIQA who provide such excellent reports and expert support to the work of the NSAC. The Committee is always impressed at the quality of their outputs, and we look forward to working with you on the work programme ahead"

In reference to the HTA of the addition of SCID to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme, the NSAC Chairperson Prof Niall O'Higgins commented in a letter on 22 February 2023:

- "Thank you and all concerned in HIQA for the comprehensive HTA which you presented to the National Screening Advisory Committee on the addition of SCID to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme. We in the NSAC wish to convey our gratitude to you for this report. It is an outstanding document in its scope, depth, quality and presentation; it represents a superb model of scientific analysis."

Close working relationships with healthcare stakeholders have been fostered during the course of our work, and the acknowledgement of the expert methodological input provided by the Screening HTA function highlights the importance of HIQA outputs for external organisations.

### Vignette 3

HRB-CICER supported the development of the National Clinical Guideline on Unexpected Intraoperative Life Threatening Haemorrhage. The work undertaken included a systematic review and budget impact analysis. The Chair of the guideline development group and Project Manager praised the support provided by the HIQA HRB-CICER Team stating:

- "We were both very happy and grateful for the support and quality of work from the HRB CICER Team throughout the guideline development process."
- "A pleasure to work with you all."

The HIQA HRB-CICER Team have worked with numerous guideline developments groups since establishment of the function in 2017. Such feedback highlights the close working relationships with healthcare stakeholders that have been fostered during the course of

our work, and the clear appreciation of those stakeholders for the excellent collaborative methodological input provided by HRB-CICER.

Image 4: Members of the HIQA HRB-CICER Team (Dr Karen Cardwell, Natasha Broderick, Dr Laura Comber and Barrie Tyner) with the Guideline Development Group for Unexpected Intraoperative Life Threatening Haemorrhage.

Left to right: Dr Norma Reidy, Dr Karen Cardwell, Professor John Hyland, Miriam Kennedy, Natasha Broderick, Dr Laura Comber and Barrie Tyner.



### 3. Reach

The concept of reach is intended to capture elements of public engagement: specifically the extent to which stakeholders or the general public may have been exposed to output or work by the HIQA HTA Directorate.

Downloads provide a measure of people actively seeking HIQA HTA outputs. Downloads are measured as the total number of downloads for a document in the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

For HIQA website downloads it should be noted that as many of the COVID-19 reports published were updated (often repeatedly and sometimes with amended titles), these reports were grouped according to theme and the cumulative downloads across each report iteration published in 2022 is presented.

HRB-CICER reports are hosted on the website of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) as opposed to the HIQA website.

As reports are shared directly by email with the targeted stakeholders (that is, NPHE, the HSE, COVID-19 EAG, and so on), such downloads are not tracked by the presented website metrics.

An academic publication [page](#) was established on the HIQA website in 2022. Academic publications associated with HTA Directorate outputs are included on this webpage, and had a total of 414 downloads in 2022.

#### Report downloads from HIQA website

- Rolling summary of Omicron evidence, epidemiology and guidance (805 total)
- Analysis of factors associated with outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in nursing homes in Ireland: Waves 1 to 3 (605 total)
- Health technology assessment of metabolic surgery for the treatment of comorbid type 2 diabetes and obesity (877 total)
- Descriptive analysis of COVID-19 epidemiological indicators and associated contextual factors in European countries (577 total)
- High level review of configuration and reform of Public Health systems in selected countries (390 total)
- Expansion of the childhood immunisation schedule to include varicella (chickenpox) vaccination: Protocol for a Health Technology Assessment (325 total)
- Planned public health measures and strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19 surges: an international review (245 total)
- Catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning (85 total)
- COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis: International review of guidance on the use of face masks to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection (78 total)

- International review of clinical guidelines and models of care for Long COVID (40 total)

In 2022, an Evidence Synthesis Bulletin was launched to summarise and disseminate widely the work HIQA completed at the request of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET) and related groups tasked with the national COVID-19 response. During periods of high production and frequent output, the bulletin allowed for all reports, advice and analysis to be collated and made easily accessible to academics, other stakeholders and the public. The bulletin is published on our social media platforms and website and is sent directly to subscribers. In 2022, we published four bulletins summarising all our outputs throughout the year.

When examining regional and national media coverage between January to December 2022, HIQA's Dr Mairin Ryan, Deputy CEO and Director of Health Technology Assessment, was quoted 57 times, Dr Conor Teljeur, Chief Scientist, was quoted 51 times and Michelle O'Neill, Deputy Director of Health Technology Assessment was quoted 27 times.

#### Media coverage in 2022 on HTA evidence outputs

- Overall media clippings: 408
- Print - 92
- Online - 220
- Broadcast - 98

## MEDIA COVERAGE IN 2022 ON HTA EVIDENCE OUTPUTS



While complete data were not available on the number of times HTA team members were interviewed on radio or television, HTA team members were featured on six radio stations in 2022.

### Radio stations that interviewed HTA team members in 2022

- RTÉ Radio 1
- Highland Radio
- KCLR
- Kildare FM
- Newstalk
- Northern Sound

## RADIO STATIONS THAT FEATURED HTA PROJECTS IN 2022



In addition to traditional media coverage, HTA Directorate outputs were disseminated online using social media platforms.

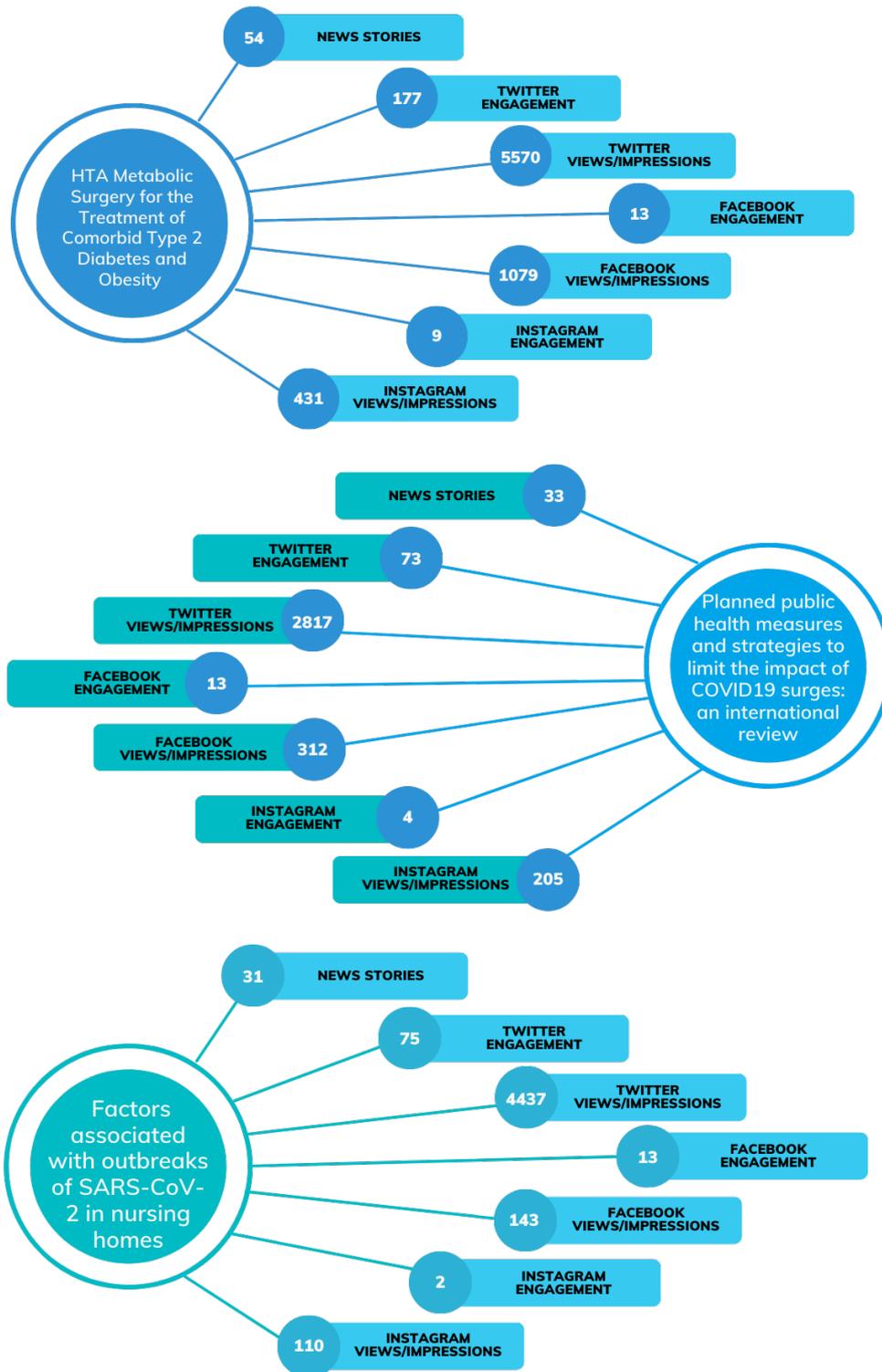
#### Social media posts in 2022 on HTA evidence outputs

- Instagram: 28
- LinkedIn: 20
- Facebook: 26
- Twitter: 199

A further sample of HTA media coverage in 2022 was also recorded based on three HTA Directorate reports.

#### Sample of HTA media coverage in 2022, using three case studies

- Health technology assessment metabolic surgery for the treatment of comorbid type 2 diabetes and obesity
  - News stories: 54 (Print: 26, Online: 20, Broadcast: 8)
  - Twitter engagement: 177
  - Twitter views/impressions: 5570
  - Facebook engagement: 13
  - Facebook views/impressions: 1079
  - Instagram engagement: 9
  - Instagram views/impressions: 431
- Planned public health measures and strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19 surges: an international review
  - News stories: 33 (Print: 9, Online: 17, Broadcast: 8)
  - Twitter engagement: 73
  - Twitter views/impressions: 2817
  - Facebook engagement: 13
  - Facebook views/impressions: 312
  - Instagram engagement: 4
  - Instagram views/impressions: 205
- Factors associated with outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in nursing homes
  - News stories: 31 (Print: 4, Online: 31, Broadcast: 6)
  - Twitter engagement: 75
  - Twitter views/impressions: 4437
  - Facebook engagement: 13
  - Facebook views/impressions: 143
  - Instagram engagement: 2
  - Instagram views/impressions: 110



Citations of peer-reviewed articles by members of the HIQA HTA Directorate demonstrate the extent to which work within the Directorate influences academic research activity internationally. In 2022, the HTA Directorate published a total of 18 peer-reviewed publications, which have been cited 51 times, picked up by at least 16 different news outlets and referenced in one Wikipedia article.

'Altmetric' is a web-based metric which incorporates a wider range of online factors that can be used to measure researcher's attention, influence and impact. Altmetric takes into account non-traditional forms of online interaction such as public policy documents, research blogs, mainstream media coverage and social network mentions. It is important to appreciate that the Altmetric is intended to supplement rather than replace existing forms of research evaluation (that is, citation-based metrics). There is no clear guidance on what represents a good Altmetric score, but a higher score indicates greater impact. For example, the highest score in the Altmetric Top 100 articles in 2020 was 34,775. One paper published by the HTA Directorate in 2022 scored in the top 5% of all research outputs ever scored by Altmetric.

#### Citations and Altmetrics of HTA publications\*

##### Peer-reviewed publications

- Walsh, K.A., Broderick, N., Ahern, S., Fawsitt, C.G., O'Brien, K.M., Carrigan, M., Harrington, P., O'Neill, M., Smith, S.M., Spillane, S. and Teljeur, C., 2022. [Effectiveness of rapid antigen testing for screening of asymptomatic individuals to limit the transmission of SARS-CoV-2: A rapid review](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 32(5), p.e2350 (5 citations, Altmetric score 15)
- McAloon, C.G., Dahly, D., Walsh, C., Wall, P., Smyth, B., More, S.J. and Teljeur, C., 2022. [Potential Application of SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests for the Detection of Infectious Individuals Attending Mass Gatherings—A Simulation Study](#). *Frontiers in Epidemiology*, 2 (1 citation, Altmetric score 4)
- Carty, P.G., Teljeur, C., De Gascun, C.F., Gillespie, P., Harrington, P., McCormick, A., O'Neill, M., Smith, S.M. and Ryan, M., 2022. [Another Step Toward Hepatitis C Elimination: An Economic Evaluation of an Irish National Birth Cohort Testing Program](#). *Value in Health*, 25(12), pp.1947-1957 (0 citations, Altmetric score 5)
- Jordan, K., Fawsitt, C.G., Carty, P.G., Clyne, B., Teljeur, C., Harrington, P. and Ryan, M., 2022. [Cost-effectiveness of metabolic surgery for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity: a systematic review of economic evaluations](#). *The European Journal of Health Economics*, pp.1-16 (3 citations, Altmetric score 15)
- Ahern, S., Walsh, K.A., Paone, S., Browne, J., Carrigan, M., Harrington, P., Murphy, A., Teljeur, C. and Ryan, M., 2023. [Clinical efficacy and effectiveness of alternative varicella vaccination strategies: An overview of reviews](#). *Reviews in medical virology*, 33(1), p.e2407. (2 citations, Altmetric score 4)
- Ahern, S., Walsh, K.A., Paone, S., Browne, J., Carrigan, M., Harrington, P., Murphy, A., Teljeur, C. and Ryan, M., 2023. [Safety of varicella vaccination strategies: An overview](#)

- [of reviews](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(2), p.e2416. (0 citations, Altmetric score 3)
- Sharp, M.K., Baki, D.A.B.A., Quigley, J., Tyner, B., Devane, D., Mahtani, K.R., Smith, S.M., O'Neill, M., Ryan, M. and Clyne, B., 2022. [The effectiveness and acceptability of evidence synthesis summary formats for clinical guideline development groups: a mixed-methods systematic review](#). *Implementation Science*, 17(1), pp.1-20. (0 citations, Altmetric score 10)
  - Dunbar P, Hazelwood E. Wang Q, McMahon M, Walsh KA, Keyes LM., 2022. [Incidence and type of restrictive practice use in residential disability facilities in Ireland, a cross-sectional study](#). *Health & Social Care in the Community*. (0 citations, Altmetric score 4)
  - Dunbar P, McMahon M, Durkan C, Walsh KA, Keyes LM. [Incidence and type of restrictive practice use in nursing homes in Ireland](#). *BMC Geriatr* 22, 802 (2022). (0 citations, Altmetric score 16)
  - Clyne, B., Tyner, B., O'Neill, M., Jordan, K., Carty, P.G., Phillips, M.K., Power, K., Turner, M.J., Smith, S.M. and Ryan, M. 2022. [ADAPTE with modified Delphi supported developing a National Clinical Guideline: stratification of clinical risk in pregnancy](#). *J Clin Epidemiol*. Jul;147:21-31. (2 citations, Altmetric 6)
  - Clyne, B, Jordan, K., Ahern, S., Walsh, K.A., Byrne, P., Carty, P.G., Drummond, L., O'Brien, K.K., Smith, S.M., Harrington, P., Ryan, M. and O'Neill, M. 2022. [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by children: a rapid review, 30 December 2019 to 10 August 2020](#). *Euro Surveill*. 27(5):2001651. (3 citations, Altmetric 9)
  - Clyne, B., Hynes, L., Kirwan, C., McGeehan, M., Byrne, P., Killilea, M., Smith, S.M., Ryan, M., Collins, C., O'Neill, M. and Wallace, E., 2023. [Perspectives on the production, and use, of rapid evidence in decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative study](#). *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine*, 28(1), pp.48-57. (2 citations, Altmetric score 31)
  - Murchu, E.O., Marshall, L., Teljeur, C., Harrington, P., Hayes, C., Moran, P. and Ryan, M., 2022. [Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) to prevent HIV: a systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical effectiveness, safety, adherence and risk compensation in all populations](#). *BMJ open*, 12(5), p.e048478. (14 citations, Altmetric score 130 including reference by 16 different news outlets. In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric)
  - Teljeur, C., Comber, L., Jordan, K., Murchu, E.O., Harrington, P., O'Neill, M. and Ryan, M., 2022. [Challenges encountered during the systematic review of newer and enhanced influenza vaccines and recommendations for the future](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 32(5), p.e2335. (0 citations, Altmetric score 1)
  - Comber, L., Jordan, K., Hawkshaw, S., Marshall, L., O'Neill, M., Ryan, M., Teljeur, C., Carnahan, A., Pérez, J.J., Robertson, A.H. and Johansen, K., 2022. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of MF59® adjuvanted seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, pp.e2329-e2329. (5 citations, Altmetric score 2)
  - Jordan, K., Murchu, E.O., Comber, L., Hawkshaw, S., Marshall, L., O'Neill, M., Teljeur, C., Harrington, P., Carnahan, A., Pérez-Martín, J.J. and Robertson, A.H., 2023. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of cell-based seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥](#)

[18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(3), p.e2332. (2 citations, Altmetric score 2)

- Comber, L., O Murchu, E., Jordan, K., Hawkshaw, S., Marshall, L., O'Neill, M., Teljeur, C., Ryan, M., Carnahan, A., Perez Martin, J.J. and Robertson, A.H., 2023. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of high-dose seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(3), p.e2330. (7 citations, Altmetric score 3)
- O Murchu, E., Comber, L., Jordan, K., Hawkshaw, S., Marshall, L., O'Neill, M., Ryan, M., Teljeur, C., Carnahan, A., Pérez, J.J. and Robertson, A.H., 2023. [Systematic review of the efficacy, effectiveness and safety of recombinant haemagglutinin seasonal influenza vaccines for the prevention of laboratory-confirmed influenza in individuals ≥ 18 years of age](#). *Reviews in Medical Virology*, 33(3), p.e2331. (5 citations, Altmetric score 6, including reference in one Wikipedia article on [subunit vaccines](#))
- Larkin J, Walsh B, Moriarty F, Clyne B, Harrington P, Smith SM. [What is the impact of multimorbidity on out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure among community-dwelling older adults in Ireland? A cross-sectional study](#) *BMJ Open*. 2022 Sep 1;12(9):e060502 (1 citation, Altmetric score 45, including reference by 1 news outlet)

\*Citation and Altmetric score calculated as of 7 July 2023 using google scholar and Altmetrics.com, respectively

HTA publications are uploaded to the international HTA database, INAHTA: <https://database.inahta.org/>. The international HTA database provides free access to bibliographic information about ongoing and published health technology assessments commissioned or undertaken by HTA organisations internationally.

In 2022, seven HTA reports were uploaded to INAHTA <https://database.inahta.org/> Content from INAHTA is now added to the TRIP Database <https://www.tripdatabase.com/> which has increased the reach of our HTA reports.

#### Views on INAHTA database

- High level review of configuration and reform of public health systems in selected countries (38 views)
- Health technology assessment of metabolic surgery for the treatment of comorbid type 2 diabetes and obesity (34 views)
- HTA of the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme (protocol) (17 views)
- Catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning (14 views)
- Descriptive analysis of COVID-19 epidemiological indicators and associated contextual factors in European countries (11 views)
- Planned public health measures and strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19 surges: an international review (11 views)
- COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis: International review of guidance on the use of face masks to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection (9 views)

HTA publications and peer reviewed open access publications authored by HTA team members, are now published on Lenus, the Irish health research repository:

<https://www.lenus.ie/>

HIQA has a collection on the Lenus repository that collates HIQA's openly available research output. The table below presents the total number of downloads and views for HIQA's HTA publications in 2022.

Top downloads and views in Lenus 2022 of HTA publications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analysis of factors associated with outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in nursing homes in Ireland: Waves 1 to 3 [v2.0] (23 views, 1 download)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning (16 views, 4 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covid-19 winter planning [infographic] (6 views, 1 download)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Descriptive analysis of COVID-19 epidemiological indicators and associated contextual factors in European countries (30 views, 12 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Face masks to limit spread of Covid-19: an international review of guidance (14 views, 1 download)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Technology Assessment of Metabolic Surgery for the Treatment of Comorbid Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity (36 views, 2 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ High level review of configuration and reform of Public Health systems in selected countries (10 views, 3 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International review of guidance on the use of face masks to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection (28 views, 4 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planned public health measures and strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19 surges: an international review (24 views, 4 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential Application of SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests for the Detection of Infectious Individuals Attending Mass Gatherings – A Simulation Study (41 views, 33 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential application of Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests for the detection of infectious individuals attending mass gatherings – a simulation study (24 views, 25 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protocol for the catalogue of institutions undertaking COVID-19 horizon scanning (3 views, 0 downloads)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protocol for descriptive analysis of COVID-19 epidemiological indicators and associated contextual factors in European countries (13 views)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protocol for an international review of guidance on the use of face masks to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 infection (12 views, 1 download)</li> </ul>

- Rolling review of International Public Health Guidance in relation to the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) [v5.0] (35 views, 42 downloads)
- Update on international public health agency assessments of the evidence in relation to the Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant [v2.0] (17 views, 9 downloads)
- Update processes for guidelines - systematic review (8 views, 33 downloads)

HIQA has a research community on zenodo: <https://zenodo.org/communities/hiqa-repository/> In 2022, 4 datasets were uploaded to the HIQA community.

#### Views and downloads on Zenodo

- Search strategies for varicella vaccination (27 views, 22 downloads)
- Search strategies for an international review of the epidemiology of Long Covid (13 views, 11 downloads)
- Search strategies for domiciliary ventilation of spinal cord injured adults (3 views, 3 downloads)
- Search strategies for gene expression profiling tests (22 views, 17 downloads)

#### Vignette 4

The Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) is a forum for the exchange of scientific information and promoting academic discussion. RAMI has over twenty Sections from Biomedical Sciences, Bioengineering, Surgery, Odontology and Epidemiology & Public Health Medicine. Three academic publications from HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team were shortlisted for the RAMI Research Awards 2021, which took place in the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland on 7 June 2022. The awards are open to all those involved in Irish medical research who have had a clinical research paper published in an indexed journal. The publications shortlisted were:

- [‘The duration of infectiousness of individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2’](#) - Medical Microbiology category
- [‘Effectiveness of public health measures to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at mass gatherings: A rapid review’](#) - Public Health Medicine/Epidemiology category
- [‘Quantifying the risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection over time’](#) – Medical Microbiology category

One of the HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Team projects (‘Effectiveness of public health measures to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at mass gatherings A rapid review’) won the Public Health Medicine/Epidemiology category. Nomination and success on a national stage spotlights the research conducted by the HIQA HTA Directorate. This success highlights the quality of research to a broader academic audience which elevates the profile of the HTA Directorate to external stakeholders and the wider public.

Image 5: Barrie Tyner, Natasha Broderick, Dr Susan Spillane, Dr Kieran Walsh, Dr Paul Carty and Dr Patricia Harrington with Professor Phillip Nolan at the RAMI Research Awards 2021



## 4. Engagement

Distinct from reach, engagement captures direct interaction with stakeholders or the general public. The HIQA HTA Directorate interacts with stakeholders through their participation in HIQA projects, in which case the stakeholders have the opportunity to directly influence HIQA outputs.

### Advisory groups

- COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis Expert Advisory Group
- Expert Advisory Group for Health Technology Assessment of Metabolic Surgery for the Treatment of Comorbid Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity
- Expert Advisory Group for Health Technology Assessment of Domiciliary Invasive Ventilation for Adults with Spinal Cord Injuries
- Expert Advisory Group for Rapid Health Technology Assessment of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus
- Expert Advisory Group for Rapid Health Technology Assessment of gene expression profiling tests for guiding the use of adjuvant chemotherapy in early-stage invasive breast cancer
- Expert Advisory Group for Health Technology Assessment for expansion of the childhood immunisation schedule to include varicella (chickenpox) vaccination
- Expert Advisory Group for Health Technology Assessment of Repatriation of paediatric haematopoietic stem cell transplant services to Ireland
- Expert Advisory Group for Health Technology Assessment of the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme
- Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation Expert Advisory Group

Through participation of members of the HIQA HTA Directorate in external projects, committees and groups, we influence the outputs of other organisations and agencies.

### Participation in prioritisation and appraisal of National Clinical Guidelines and National Clinical Audits

- Stop Smoking, National Clinical Guideline
- Clinical guideline on Infection, Prevention and Control
- Guideline for the diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with gestational trophoblastic disease

### Supporting the use of evidence to inform decision making/guideline development/health policy

- National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC)
- COVID-19 Advisory Group

### National Clinical Effectiveness Committee and National Clinical Guideline Development Groups supported

#### National Clinical Effectiveness Committee

- Update processes for guidelines – systematic review

#### Guideline Development Groups

- Intraoperative Massive Haemorrhage
- Smoking Cessation
- Infection Prevention and Control

### Contribution to external working groups and committees

- HRB-CICER Executive Committee
- HSE National Cancer Control Programme, Technology Review Group
- HSE Education Working Group for the Implementation of National Clinical Guideline No. 21
- Department of Health's Health System Performance Assessment Stakeholder Group
- National Clinical Effectiveness Committee
- SPHeRE Steering Group
- Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Steering Group
- Evidence Synthesis Ireland International Steering Group
- Heads of HTA Agencies Group
- Working Group of the Council of Ministers reviewing the proposed European Commission HTA Regulation
- ISPOR HTA Roundtable
- Long COVID Ireland Study Steering Committee
- UK National Screening Committee Blood Spot Task Group
- Advisory Group for Irish Cancer Society funded project entitled '*Examining the impact of COVID-19 on cancer in Ireland*'.

### Topic Identification, Selection, Scoping and Prioritisation

- Provided information sessions to the Department of Health on the process for submitting topics to be considered for HTA by HIQA

### Collaborations

- Partnership with the Department of Public Health in the Mid-West to successfully apply to co-host a Clinical Leadership in Public Health Medicine fellow funded by HSE from July 2021 to July 2022.
- Collaboration with the Health Library Ireland (formerly the HSE National Health Library and Knowledge Service). HSE librarians provided technical support to HIQA's evidence synthesis team throughout 2022. This support was formalised in 2021 with the HSE librarians continuing to provide technical support to HIQA's librarian, as required.
- HIQA entered in to a collaboration with AGENAS, the Italian national HTA agency in 2021. One AGENAS senior health economist commenced a fellowship in the HIQA HTA team in October 2021 and remained in the HTA Directorate throughout 2022. This fellowship funded by AGENAS provides a unique opportunity for skills transfer and information exchange between the two agencies.
- HIQA is a member of both HTAi and the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA). These international collaborations allow the HTA Directorate to share research and collaborate on and co-produce evidence reviews on health technologies.
- HIQA is a founding member of the Heads of HTA Agencies Group, a network of Health Technology Assessment Agencies across the European Union formed in 2021.
- HIQA is a designated member of the Coordination Group on HTA (HTACG) for medical devices. The key tasks of the HTACG are to coordinate and adopt the joint HTA work carried out by its sub-groups within the scope of the HTA Regulation and to adopt methodological and procedural guidance documents for joint work.
- HIQA is a co-applicant on the Health Research Board Emerging Investigator Award (EIA) led by Dr Barbara Clyne, RCSI, entitled *Evidence synthesis and translation of findings for national clinical guideline development: addressing the needs and preferences of guideline development groups*. This research aims to support clinical guideline development processes underlying the work conducted by HRB-CICER by developing a 'toolkit' for evidence producers and end users.
- HIQA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between national HTA bodies in Scotland, Wales and Ireland in 2019. Since the signing of this MoU, HIQA has worked closely with its counterparts in Scotland (Scottish Health Technologies Group) and Wales (Health Technology Wales) on various HTAs and other projects of mutual benefit.

### Vignette 5

In 2022, HIQA published an HTA of Metabolic Surgery for the Treatment of Comorbid Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity. The HTA was conducted following a request from the Clinical Lead of the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes in the Health Service Executive (HSE). The HTA demonstrated engagement from a broad range of healthcare stakeholders who contributed to the project to directly inform national decision making.

The HTA was supported by an Expert Advisory Group with representation from the Department of Health, the National Clinical Programme for Diabetes, National Clinical

Programme for Obesity, clinicians with specialist expertise in bariatric surgery and endocrinology, patient representatives from the Irish Coalition for People Living with Obesity and methodological experts, including from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS), the French National Authority for Health, also contributed to this project.

There was positive feedback from EAG members throughout the project, with EAG members commenting upon project completion:

- "It's one of the most considered and informed discussions that I've had in the last 20 years, really delighted to be taking part in this. So thank you very much for all the work that's gone in to us. It's really impressive and genuinely kind of encouraging."
- "It was outstandingly well conducted"

Engagement with stakeholders is a core component of HTA Directorate work. The HTA of Metabolic Surgery for the Treatment of Comorbid Type 2 Diabetes and Obesity and feedback provides an excellent example of engagement with stakeholders.

## 5. Change

Change is intended to measure the informing of decision-making and health system benefits, including report advice followed, adoption of published guidelines or skills and training of HTA Directorate staff.

### *Medium-term*

#### HTA informed decision-making

- Health Technology Assessment of the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme\*

\*Advice provided to NSAC in 2022, report published in 2023

#### Evidence informed decision-making

- National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET)

#### Skills and knowledge gained through conference, course or training attendance

- INAHTA (International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment) Congress Adapting to Changing Times (2 staff members)
- European Public Health conference (3 staff members)
- ISPOR (Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research) conference (5 staff members)
- Health Technology Assessment international conference (2 staff members)
- National Patient Safety Office conference (5 staff members)
- Irish Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy (2 staff members)
- Building One Health Action under INAP2 (2 staff members)
- HSE Activity based funding conference (1 staff member)
- SPHeRE PhD programme (3 staff members)
- Health Economics Masterclass (3 staff members)
- Understanding and Critiquing Models (1 staff member)
- Management Fundamentals (4 staff members)
- Leading with Impact (1 staff member)
- Health Utilities for Economic Models (1 staff member)
- ISPOR Short Course: Budget Impact Analysis II: Applications and Design Issues (1 staff member)
- GRADE (4 staff members)
- Facilitation skills (7 staff members)
- Freedom of Information Decision-maker (3 staff members)
- Infectious Disease Modelling Specialisation (1 staff member)
- Introduction to R for Health Technology Assessment (1 staff member)
- Model Calibration in R (1 staff member)

- Communicating science for policy engagement (8 staff members)
- Reviews of Complex interventions (2 staff members)
- NCPE Annual Symposium (1 staff member)

Image 6: Dr Helen O'Donnell, Dr Kieran Walsh, Dr Karen Cardwell, Dr Susan Spillane and Dr Laura Comber who graduated in the first cohort of HIQA's internal management training programme in 2022



### Vignette 6

On 8 January 2019, the EU Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom, which sets basic safety standards for protection arising from exposure to ionising radiation, was transposed into Irish law. These regulations designate HIQA as the competent authority for medical exposure. The regulations support better, safer practice across all service providers using medical exposure in Ireland. The HTA Directorate Ionising Radiation function was established in 2022 to enable HIQA fulfil its obligations under the Regulations. One of these obligations relates to the generic justification of practices. Generic justification is important for patient safety as it aims to safeguard the use of radiation across the healthcare sector. It does this by considering the evidence on the safety and effectiveness of a new type of practice before that practice can be generally adopted for used on a day-to-day basis for patients. The Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation (MEIR) Expert

Advisory Group (EAG) was formed in 2022 comprising an independent chair and representatives from patient organisations, regulators and key professional bodies as well as international and methodological experts. The EAG is responsible for reviewing the available evidence about practices and making a recommendations to HIQA about whether the practices should be generically justified.

Image 7: Andrew Dullea and Dr Lydia O'Sullivan, Ionising Radiation, HTA Directorate with Agnella Craig, Regional Manager Ionising Radiation, Healthcare Directorate at the Irish Institute of Radiography and Radiation Therapy conference 2022



### Vignette 7

Outputs from the Screening HTA and COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis teams are examples of work conducted by the HTA Directorate in 2022 which informed health policy decision-making.

HIQA's HTA on the the addition of the group of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) conditions to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme (NNBSP) informed the recommendation by the National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) on this topic. In December 2022, NSAC recommended

to the Minister for Health that screening for SCID should be added to the NNBS. On 3 January 2023, the Minister for Health approved the recommendation made by NSAC in relation to SCID. Work has begun by the HSE to plan for implementation of the addition of the group of SCID conditions to the NNBS.

The evidence synthesis outputs produced by the HIQA COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis team supported the work of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. In late 2021 and early 2022, this included a living update of the evidence related to the emerging threat from the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. The work conducted by the COVID-19 Evidence Synthesis team influenced the decision making process of NPHE in relation to restrictions for the public and other public health measures in response to the emergence of the Omicron variant.

## 6. Conclusions

The HTA Directorate has gone through significant re-organisation since 2020 and the impact of our work in 2022 is a culmination of efforts in the consolidation of existing work streams and also the development of newly established work streams, namely the Ionising Radiation Team. As the work programme of the HTA Directorate transitioned from the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-2021, the types of projects conducted were more reflective of traditional HTA project structure and timelines, which is denoted by the lower number of outputs from the HTA Directorate in 2022. However, the full resumption of national and international conferences in 2022 presented an excellent opportunity to disseminate HTA outputs to wider audiences and led to an increase in the number of presentations delivered in 2022.

Evaluation of the impact of our work is an essential component in understanding the extent to which it informs decision making and also its visibility to the general public. Dissemination of our work and making it subject to independent peer review provides reassurance of its quality and that it is carried out in accordance with international best practice. The Knowledge Sharing and Impact Assessment Report for 2022 demonstrates that the broad range of activities undertaken by the HTA Directorate continue to have a substantial impact and influence both nationally and internationally.

**Published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).**

For further information please contact:

Health Information and Quality Authority  
George's Court  
George's Lane  
Smithfield  
Dublin 7  
D07 E98Y

+353 (0)1 8147400  
info@hiqa.ie  
www.hiqa.ie

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