



Health Technology Assessment Directorate Plan 2025-2027

December 2025

About the Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory body 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.

Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with relevant government Ministers and departments, 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 of Social Services 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 permanent international protection accommodation service centres, health services and children's social services against the national standards. Where necessary, HIQA investigates serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use health services and children's social 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 and social care services, with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Visit www.hiqa.ie for more information.

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Foreword

I am very pleased to introduce the Health Technology Assessment Directorate Plan 2025-2027. The period 2025–2027 marks an important stage in the continued evolution of our work and the growth of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Directorate. Over recent years, our Directorate and functions have expanded significantly, reflecting the increasing complexity of the healthcare landscape and the vital role that high-quality evidence and information plays in improving outcomes for people who use healthcare services.

The HIQA Corporate Plan 2025-2027 sets out an overarching framework to guide our work on the HTA Directorate Plan over the next three years. It outlines how we will build on our achievements to date, strengthen our capacity, and ensure that we remain responsive to the changing needs of the health and social care system. Central to this is our commitment to collaboration — working closely with patients, carers, the public, and our partners across the healthcare sector, academia, industry and beyond to ensure that our work reflects best practice and remains transparent, relevant and grounded in real experiences.

The coming years will also bring new opportunities, through the European Union Regulation on Health Technology Assessment (HTAR), our work with the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) and assessments of increasingly complex health technologies. In respect of our obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, we will work to consider the environmental impacts of health technologies in our work. Advances in technology, particularly in artificial intelligence, will transform how evidence is identified, synthesised, and applied. We are committed to harnessing these innovations responsibly to enhance the timeliness, rigour, and accessibility of our evidence synthesis work, while maintaining the highest standards of integrity and quality.

As our Directorate continues to grow, we will invest in our people, practices, and products to ensure that we can meet emerging challenges with confidence. We will continue to support evidence-informed decision-making, promote improvement, and contribute to a safer, more effective, and more person-centred health and social care system for all.



Dr Mairin Ryan

Director of Health Technology Assessment & Deputy Chief Executive Officer

HIQA's Corporate Plan 2025-2027

[HIQA's Corporate Plan](#) outlines a clear strategic direction for HIQA for the three-year period from 2025 to 2027. Over this period, we will remain responsive to the needs of the public and will continue to work towards our vision that health and social care services consistently deliver excellent standards of care and the best possible outcomes for the people of Ireland. This Plan sets the Vision, Mission, Values and Outcomes for the whole organisation. The HTA Directorate Plan 2025-2027 should be viewed within this framework.

HIQA's Vision and Mission

Our Vision and Mission should be considered together. Our Vision sets out what we ultimately want to achieve, while our Mission defines our purpose and how we will go about achieving it.

Vision

Health and social care services consistently deliver excellent standards of care and the best possible outcomes for the people of Ireland



Mission

To enable the best possible health and social care outcomes for all, through evidence-informed decision-making, standard setting, and regulation



What this means for the HTA Directorate

A health and social care system that delivers safe, sustainable, efficient and equitable care.

To work independently to be the trusted organisation in HTA and evidence synthesis, supporting and informing decision-making, by fostering collaborative partnerships and innovative approaches.

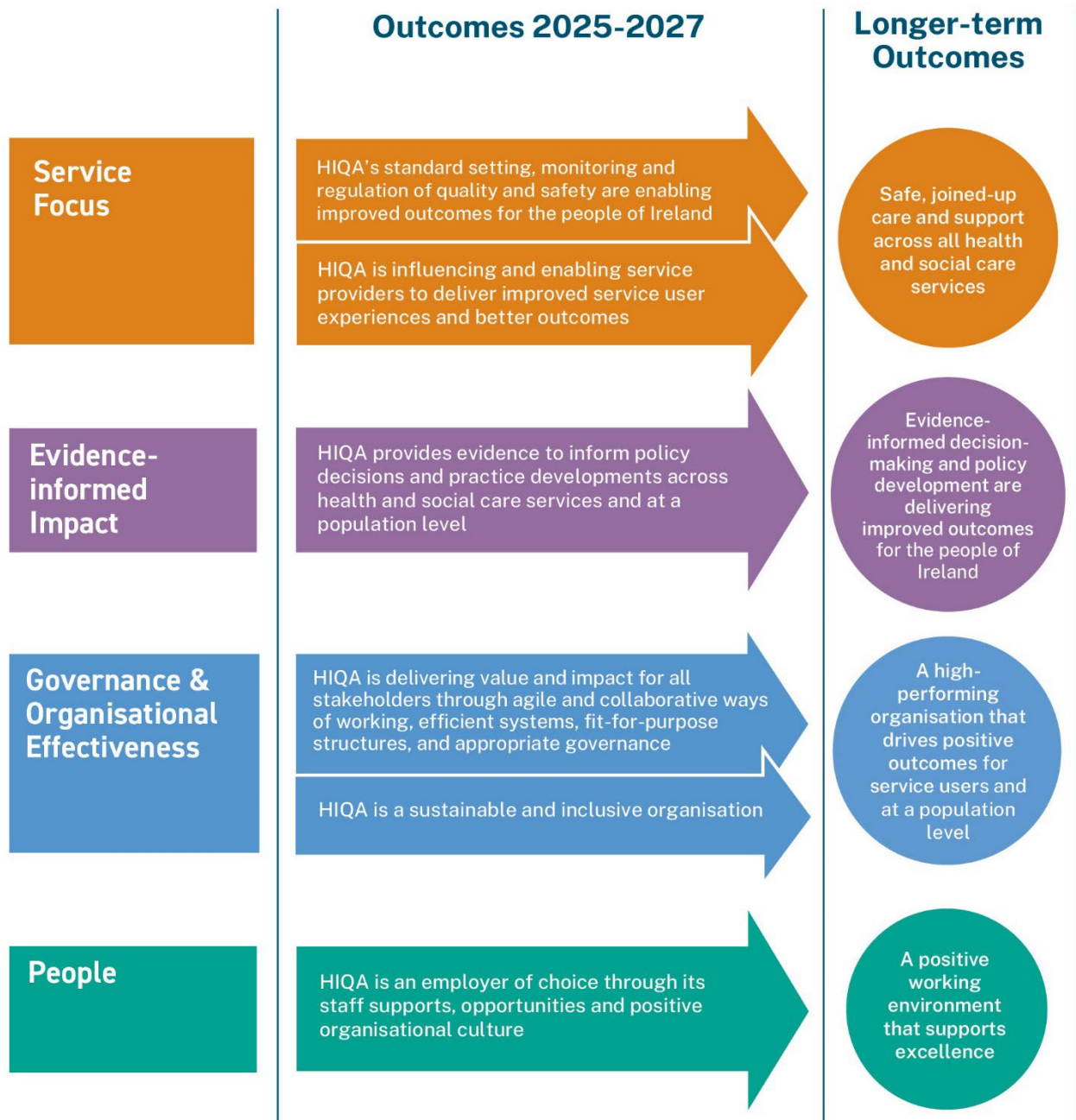
HIQA's Values

HIQA's values guide the organisation, embodying its identity and principles. They shape how we do our business and how we engage with all internal and external stakeholders.



HIQA's Outcomes

Our Corporate Plan is designed to foster continuous improvement, with a focus on delivering tangible outcomes over the next three years, while keeping a clear view of our long-term aims. This Plan covers an initial three-year period while also having a clear understanding of HIQA's long-term strategic objectives. By outlining 2025-2027 outcomes and longer-term outcomes, we aim to demonstrate our commitment to clear progression over time, with each phase building on the last and bringing us closer to realising HIQA's vision.



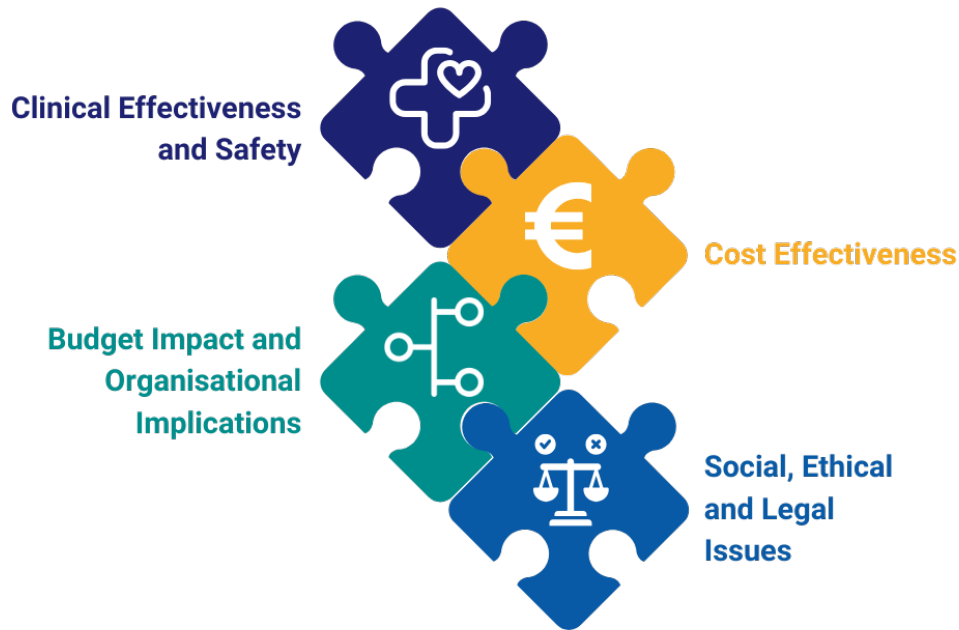


Key Enablers for the HTA Directorate



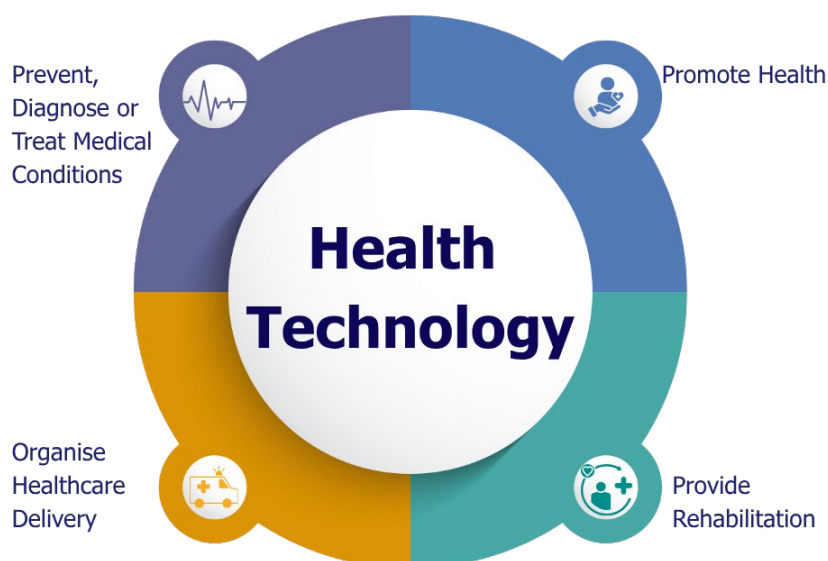
These key enablers will support the HTA Directorate to successfully implement its Objectives for 2025-2027.

Overview of the Health Technology Assessment Directorate

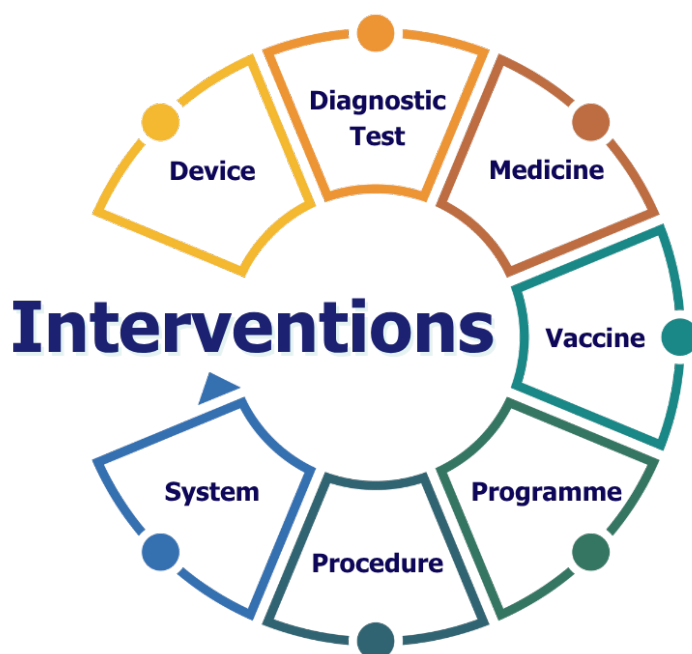


Health technology assessments (HTAs) are designed to inform safe and effective health policies, that are both patient-focused and achieve best value for money. HTA is a multidisciplinary activity that requires a broad range of expertise, comprehensive evidence synthesis and data analysis, and extensive stakeholder engagement. HTA can cover a range of fields including:

- clinical effectiveness and safety
- cost effectiveness
- budget impact and organisational implications
- social, ethical and legal issues, depending on the function and needs of the decision-maker.



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

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.

Overall, the aim of the HTA Directorate is to ensure that the best available evidence is presented to inform the decision-making process in order to promote a safe, effective, efficient, and sustainable healthcare system. The HTA Directorate will work to deliver the following nine functions to the highest possible standard, from 2025 to 2027 and beyond:

General HTA

The general HTA function informs national investment and disinvestment decisions by the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE) on a broad range of health technologies. The types of technologies assessed by the general HTA function are wide-ranging and may include medical devices, digital health technologies, diagnostic tests and health service reconfiguration, among other interventions.

Immunisation HTA

The Immunisation function was established in 2023 and is funded to conduct HTAs and evidence syntheses to inform national immunisation policies as prioritised by the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health. HTAs are undertaken of both child and adult national immunisation programmes, and can be in relation to seasonal and non-seasonal infectious diseases.

Screening HTA

The National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) was established in 2019 as an independent advisory committee that advises the Minister for Health and Department of Health on new proposals for and revisions to population-based screening programmes. Since 2020, the Screening HTA function in HIQA has provided evidence synthesis (including HTAs) and evidence-informed advice to support the work of NSAC. This support has involved assessments of both new and existing population-based screening programmes, and reviews of processes used to

inform screening policy (such as prioritisation and decision-making approaches, and the development of ethical frameworks).

Centre in Ireland for Clinical guideline support and Evidence Reviews (CICER)

The Centre in Ireland for Clinical guideline support and Evidence Reviews (CICER) at HIQA is funded by the Health Research Board (HRB). CICER comprises a dedicated multidisciplinary research team supported by staff from the HTA directorate in HIQA, and the Discipline of Public Health and Primary Care in the School of Medicine in Trinity College Dublin.

CICER was awarded funding spanning the period from 2017 to 2024, and again from 2024 to 2028, to produce evidence to support the development of National Clinical Guidelines, which are quality assured by the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) and mandated by the Minister for Health for implementation in Ireland. CICER provides methodological support to guideline development groups and aims to deliver a high-quality evidence base regarding systematic review of clinical and cost effectiveness and budget impact analysis.

Public Health policy evidence synthesis and advice

The Public Health function was established in 2023 to conduct evidence syntheses and provide evidence-based advice to inform national public health policy, as prioritised by the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health.

Generic Justification of Ionising Radiation Practices

Under SI 256 of 2018, HIQA is responsible for the generic justification of new practices involving medical exposure to ionising radiation (MEIR) before they are generally adopted. HIQA may also consider the justification of existing practices when new and important information becomes available about the effectiveness or safety of the practice or about alternative practices that could replace it. HIQA is also responsible for the preparation of guidelines for the use of MEIR in asymptomatic individuals for the early detection of disease, but outside of a screening programme. The ionising radiation evidence review team in HIQA's HTA Directorate assists HIQA in fulfilling these functions. HIQA has convened a MEIR Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to support it in its role as the competent authority.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC)

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) is Ireland's National Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (NITAG). First established in 1998, NIAC has been hosted by HIQA as a statutory function under Section 8(1)(g) of the Health Act 2007 (as amended) since 31 March 2025. NIAC provides independent expert evidence-based recommendations and advice to the Minister for Health on immunisation and related health matters in the Irish context. The NIAC Secretariat

team situated within the HTA Directorate provides clinical, evidence synthesis and administrative support to NIAC.

Health Technology Assessment Regulation (HTAR)

The Regulation (EU) 2021/2282 on health technology assessment (HTAR) entered into force on 11 January 2022 and applies from 12 January 2025. HIQA is working with the Department of Health to support implementation of the EU HTA Regulation, including preparing to undertake Joint Clinical Assessments of eligible high-risk medical devices and diagnostics from 2026. HIQA represents Ireland on the Coordination Group and its Joint Clinical Assessment and Methodology Subgroups.

Strategy, Support and Research (SSR)

The Strategy, Support and Research (SSR) function was established in 2023, with the overarching aim of developing strategy, enabling and enhancing research activities, and providing support to the wider Directorate to allow it to meet its business plan objectives. The SSR function provides cross function support to the HTA Directorate in the areas of research, programme management, administration, library, corporate reporting and risk management.

HTA Directorate Plan 2025-2027

Pillar 1: Our People

Objective: A productive and rewarding work environment that supports the recruitment, development and retention of high-calibre staff.

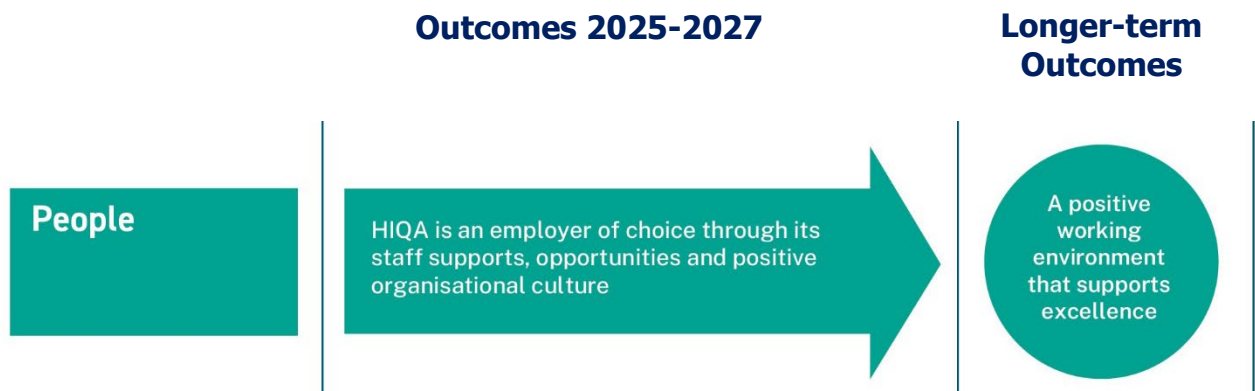


Key Priorities

By 2027, we will have:

- supported learning, development and mentoring opportunities, including PhD scholarships, postgraduate training, and student placements
- identified skill gaps in the Directorate to inform learning and development opportunities, as well as recruitment and succession planning
- refreshed our approach to recruitment to attract the best people
- promoted and facilitated interactive activities amongst staff to maintain a positive work culture and promote knowledge sharing
- enabled a positive work-life balance.

Impact on Outcomes



Pillar 2: Our Practices

Objective: Excellence and efficiencies in research methodologies and procedures to meet the increasing demand for evidence synthesis.

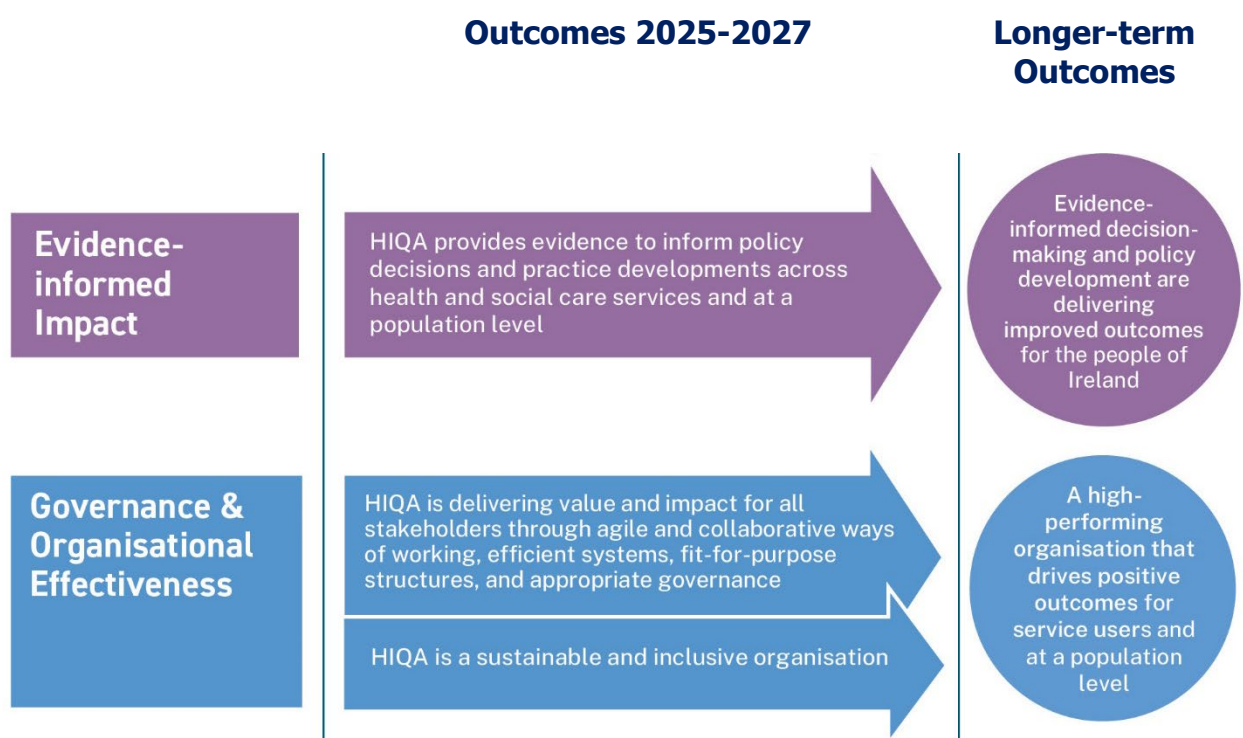


Key Priorities

By 2027, we will have:

- supported the use of high-quality methods and procedures
- developed and strengthened stakeholder relationships and enhanced public and patient involvement
- strategically availed of funding opportunities that align with our values and objectives
- utilised artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies in our processes to create efficiencies in line with HIQA's Digital and Data Strategy
- expanded the strategy, support and research (SSR) function, to include the establishment of a strategic research unit, in the context of Directorate and organisational growth.

Impact on Outcomes



Pillar 3: Our Products

Objective: High-quality products that make a difference.

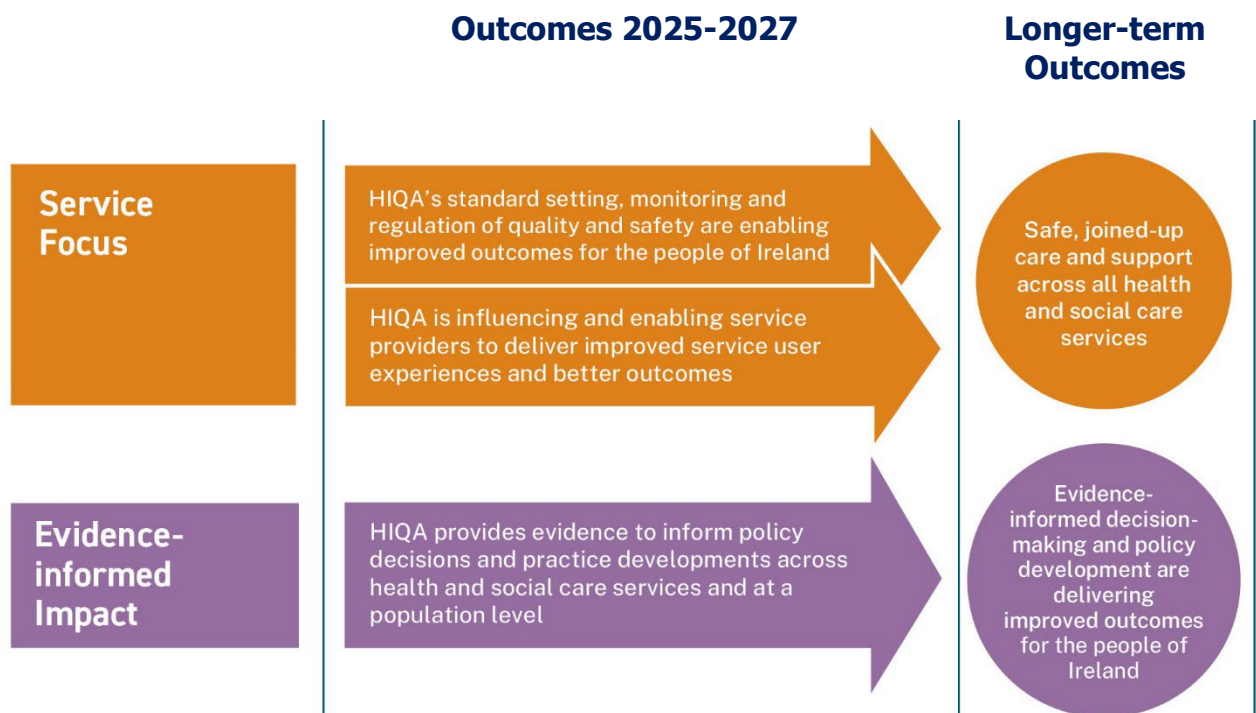
Key Priorities

By 2027, we will have:

- monitored and evaluated international HTA practices and products to inform our own products
- worked with the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Team to enhance dissemination of our products
- contributed to national and international collaborations, in particular implementation of the EU Regulation on HTA (HTAR)
- evaluated the impact of our work
- expanded the range of our products, which now include the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland.



Impact On Outcomes



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**Health
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Authority**

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis
agus Cáilíocht Sláinte