



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What sort of topics does HTW appraise?

Our remit covers any technology or model of care and support in health and social care that is not a medicine.

This could include things like:

- Medical devices (including digital health technologies)
- Diagnostics,
- Procedures,
- Interventions
- Equipment,
- Different models of care for supporting families, children, adults, and the workforce.

In Wales, appraisal of medicines is done by either the [All Wales Medicines Strategy Group \(AWMSG\)](#) or the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#).

What criteria do topics have to meet to be suitable for appraisal by HTW?

Topics must meet certain criteria to be potentially suitable for appraisal. We will consider a topic for appraisal if:

- It is a technology or model of care and support that falls within our remit.
- It has the potential to directly impact patients, people who access social care, or carers.
- It has any appropriate UK regulatory approval or is expected to have UK regulatory approval within the next 12 months.
- There is sufficient evidence already available on the technology or model of care and support.

What sort of topics will not be suitable for appraisal?

A topic will not usually be considered suitable for appraisal if:

- It is a medicine.
- Its use does not directly influence the outcomes, wellbeing, or experience of patients or people accessing care and support.
- It is still a prototype or still under development.
- There is insufficient evidence to facilitate appraisal.

Although we would not usually consider topics that meet any of these exclusion criteria suitable for full HTW appraisal and national guidance production, we may still produce a Topic Exploration Report which would provide health and social care stakeholders in Wales with a high-level evidence overview.

What sort of evidence does HTW require for a topic to be eligible for appraisal?

We consider all types of evidence e.g. real world evidence. However, we give priority to evidence that compares the effectiveness of a technology or model of care and support with current treatment or care options, and that measures effectiveness in as unbiased a manner as possible. This evidence may be obtained using well-conducted randomised controlled trials or through collection of good quality real world evidence assessing the technology in use.

We will also prioritise evidence from well conducted secondary studies, such as systematic reviews or health technology assessments undertaken by other agencies where these are available.

Can HTW help me to gather the evidence I need to submit a topic for appraisal?

HTW offers a [Scientific Advice Service](#) which can help technology developers and innovators to generate evidence and demonstrate how their product meets the needs of care commissioners, care providers, patients and service users. It can identify gaps in evidence, support evidence generation activities and help a product to market. It is a fee-based service and is available for technology developers of all sizes.