

NIHR

Ablative and non-surgical therapies for early and very early hepatocellular carcinoma: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

Many studies found were small and of poor quality. The uptake of specific ablative therapies in the UK appears to be based more on technological advancements and ease of use than strong evidence of clinical effectiveness. However, there is evidence that percutaneous ethanol injection and percutaneous acid injection are inferior to radiofrequency ablation, microwave ablation and resection.

Systematic search: Limited

December 2023

<https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/hta/GK5221/#/abstract>

The King's Fund

Hospital discharge funds: experiences in winter 2022–23

Commissioners and service providers in six local areas in England were interviewed to find out how they experienced the process of receiving additional funds, making plans, and delivering and monitoring the plans in winter 2022–23. Although extra funding was welcomed, it came with insufficient advance notice for effective planning, sometimes having to be spent on residential care that was available at short notice rather than developing more services to support people at home. Commissioners and service providers also wanted to be able to use the funds to prevent avoidable hospital admissions, and criticised burdensome monitoring requirements.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/hospital-discharge-funds>

Scottish Government

An exploratory qualitative study of the Mental Health after Covid Hospitalisation (MACH) service

This research explores the MACH service from the perspective of practitioners and National Specialist Advisors from the NSAG with a view to understanding how the service has been implemented and developed since it was launched. It provides insight about the learning emerging from the development and delivery of MACH as well as potential areas for improvement.

Systematic search: Limited

December 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/exploratory-qualitative-study-mental-health-covid-hospitalisation-mach-service/documents/>

Endometriosis: lived experience insight report 2023

The report details the findings from a series of endometriosis lived experience interviews, provides an insight into experiences of accessing care and support across Scotland and how living with endometriosis can impact quality of life.

Systematic search: Limited

December 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/endometriosis-lived-experience-insight-report-2023/>

Recovery housing: international literature review

Recovery housing is an umbrella term for substance-free, safe living environments for people in recovery from problem substance use.

Systematic search: Limited
December 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recovery-housing-scotland-review-international-literature/>

SIGN

Nil

Public Health Scotland

Congenital conditions in Scotland 2000 to 2021

Provides current best estimates of the number of babies with congenital conditions among pregnancies ending in Scotland up to 2021 and an update on the project to set up a national congenital condition register for Scotland.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/congenital-conditions-in-scotland/congenital-conditions-in-scotland-2000-to-2021>

Community Benefit Gateway case studies:

Dunrossness Central Public Hall supported to run their South End Menopause support project

Working with Alpha Solway, an NHS supplier, South End Menopause widened their assistance to women in different parts of Shetland and now offer a diverse range of resources during their meeting sessions. There have been good levels of engagement from the community and the group are now linking with local businesses to widen the therapeutic offer to participants.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/community-benefit-gateway-case-study-dunrossness-central-public-hall-supported-to-run-their-south-end-menopause-support-project>

Action for Children supported to run various projects for local families, children and young people

Among other projects, support from Alpha Solway enabled Action for Children to provide additional support to 60 children and their families in Dumfries and Galloway and enabled children in the area to benefit from access to leisure activities and emotional wellbeing support.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/community-benefit-gateway-case-study-action-for-children-supported-to-run-various-projects-for-local-families-children-and-young-people/>

Mind Your Head supported to run their mental health services for adults and children

Financial support received from Alpha Solway has helped Mind Your Head to meet increased local demand and sustain the delivery of the Wellness Programme's associated services and activities including one-to-one mental health support sessions, mental health awareness workplace visits and information and signposting services.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/community-benefit-gateway-case-study-mind-your-head-supported-to-run-their-mental-health-services-for-adults-and-children/>

Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC Advice)

degarelix (Firmagon)

Accepted for use within NHSScotland for treatment of high-risk localised and locally advanced hormone dependent prostate cancer in combination with radiotherapy; and as neoadjuvant treatment prior to radiotherapy in patients with high-risk localised or locally advanced hormone dependent prostate cancer.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/degarelix-firmagon-abb-smc2625/>

cipaglucosidase alfa (Pombiliti)

Accepted for use as a long-term enzyme replacement therapy used in combination with the enzyme stabiliser miglustat for the treatment of adults with late-onset Pompe disease (acid α -glucosidase [GAA] deficiency).

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/cipaglucosidase-alfa-pombiliti-abb-smc2606/>

cemiplimab (Libtayo®)

Accepted for use as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic or locally advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) who are not candidates for curative surgery or curative radiation.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/cemiplimab-libtayo-reassessment-smc2584/>

deucravacitinib (Sotyktu)

Accepted for restricted use for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults who are candidates for systemic therapy. Restricted to patients who have failed to respond to standard systemic therapies (including ciclosporin, methotrexate and phototherapy), are intolerant to, or have a contra-indication to these treatments.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/deucravacitinib-sotyktu-full-smc2581/>

nivolumab (Opdivo)

Accepted for use in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy for the neoadjuvant treatment of resectable (tumours ≥ 4 cm or node positive) non-small cell lung cancer in adults.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/nivolumab-opdivo-nsclc-full-smc2619/>

trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu®)

Accepted for use as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic HER2-low breast cancer who have received prior chemotherapy in the metastatic setting or developed disease recurrence during or within 6 months of completing adjuvant chemotherapy.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/trastuzumab-deruxtecan-enhertu-full-smc2608/>

bimekizumab (Bimzelx)

Accepted for use for the treatment of adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) who have responded inadequately or are intolerant to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs); and for the treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis who have responded inadequately or are intolerant to conventional therapy.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/medicines-advice/bimekizumab-bimzelx-axspa-abb-smc2616/>

NICE - Technology Appraisal Guidance

TA942 Empagliflozin for treating chronic kidney disease

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA942>

TA943 Hybrid closed loop systems for managing blood glucose levels in type 1 diabetes

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta943>

TA935 Secukinumab for treating moderate to severe hidradenitis suppurativa

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta935>

TA939 Pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab for persistent, recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta939>

TA934 Foslevodopa–foscarbidopa for treating advanced Parkinson's with motor symptoms

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta934>

NICE – Guidelines

NG191 COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19

Update to guidance replacing two recommendations on managing acute cough with a link to the *NICE guideline on cough (acute): antimicrobial prescribing*, removing the recommendation to consider benzodiazepine for managing anxiety or agitation and also removing the recommendations on medicines for end of life care.

Systematic search: Limited

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng191>

NG238 Cardiovascular disease: risk assessment and reduction, including lipid modification

This guideline covers identifying and assessing risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in adults without established CVD. It covers lifestyle changes and lipid-lowering treatment (including statins) for primary and secondary prevention of CVD, and includes guidance for people who also have diabetes or chronic kidney disease. Contains a new recommendation on the target lipid level for secondary prevention of CVD for adults on lipid-lowering treatment.

Systematic search: Limited

December 2023

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng238>

Public Health Wales Observatory Evidence Service

Nil

Health and Care Research Wales Evidence Centre

A rapid review of physical health risks associated with special procedures (tattooing, body piercing, acupuncture, electrolysis)

Searches were conducted for research published between 2015 and 2023. Where possible, existing reviews were used. Complications and adverse events resulting from special procedures include fungal infections, bacterial infections, viral infections, blood-borne infections, allergic reactions, malignant growths, benign growths, sarcoidosis-related reactions, and a range of other skin and eye-related adverse reactions and dental issues. Most of the primary evidence for the physical health risks associated with the special procedures came from case reports and case series, which do not allow causal inferences or provide information on the prevalence of adverse events. Future primary research should employ more robust designs. The evidence contained in this review will be used to inform the training of local authority enforcement officers and special procedures practitioners and to educate members of the public who seek to use these services.

Systematic search: Limited

December 2023

<https://researchwalesevidencecentre.co.uk/SpecialProcedures>

EPPI Centre

Nil

AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – USA)

Nil

Health Foundation

Nil

Canadian Agency for drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)

Nil

McGill University Health Centre (Canada)

Nil

Health Information & Quality Authority (Ireland) – Health Technology Assessments

Nil

Campbell Collaboration

Friendly visiting by a volunteer for reducing loneliness or social isolation in older adults

The evidence is very uncertain about the effect of friendly face-to-face visiting by a volunteer on improving loneliness, social isolation, depressive symptom experiencing, life satisfaction and mental health-related outcomes in older adults. None of the studies reported on the long-term effects (more than six months after the friendly visiting programme has ended) on loneliness or social isolation. None of the studies reported on the medium-term effects (1-6 months after the programme has ended) on mental health. Given the limitations of the available evidence, further research is very likely to change the results of the review.

Systematic search: Yes

December 2023

<https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/better-evidence/volunteer-visits-loneliness-isolation-wellbeing-older-adults.html>

Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Nil

Selected other recent reports

All Party Parliamentary Group for Vulnerable Groups to Pandemics (2023) Forsaken But Engaged: an inquiry into the psychological aspects of COVID-19, mental health, and political engagement of immunocompromised people

A national survey was launched in July 2023 aimed at collecting information on the lived experiences of the 1.2 million immunocompromised people and their families who are still shielding or living restricted lives due to COVID-19, comparing their experiences with the general population. Over 800 people responded to the questionnaire. This report provides a direct comparison between the general public and immunocompromised people on crucial psychological factors related to COVID-19, on mental health and wellbeing, and on a wide range of aspects of political engagement. Findings reflected that in comparison to the general public, those who participated experienced higher levels of worry due to COVID-19, poorer mental health, lower perceptions of representation, lower trust in government, and poorer satisfaction in democracy and in terms of how the government has handled the pandemic. Participants also reported several key areas they found most difficult about shielding during the pandemic, with 'feelings of loneliness' reported most commonly.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/humanitiesampsocialsciences/documents/Final,APPG,report.pdf>

UKHSA (2023) Health Effects of Climate Change in the UK: state of the evidence 2023

This report examines the future relationship between temperature and mortality in climate change. Using a high-emissions scenario, UK-heat related deaths are estimated to increase by one and a half times in the 2030s and by 12 times by 2070. Cold-related deaths are also projected to increase for a period before declining, with deaths from extreme cold declining by the mid-century, and deaths from moderate cold peaking around the same time and seeing a decline by the 2070s. Deaths due to cold will therefore continue to present a substantial mortality burden. Public health interventions and wider adaptations can have a major impact in reducing temperature-related risks to health for both heat and cold. Protecting older adults and considering the social determinants of vulnerability is vital to lever for minimising health risks. Evidence of substantial variation in geographic and social vulnerability to heat and cold highlights that there is scope for interventions to be targeted to

improve the resilience of places and communities. Many infectious diseases are highly climate sensitive, and with warmer temperatures it is increasingly likely that we will see the introduction and establishment of a number of invasive mosquito species in the UK, as well as the projected spread of existing species into habitats that were previously inhospitable to them.

Systematic search: No

December 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-health-effects-in-the-uk>

NICE FORWARD PLANNING – Publications due January 2024

Durvalumab with gemcitabine and cisplatin for treating unresectable or advanced biliary tract cancer

Technology appraisal

Ivosidenib for treating advanced cholangiocarcinoma with an IDH1 mutation after at least 1 therapy

Technology appraisal

Nivolumab-relatlimab for untreated unresectable or metastatic melanoma [ID1688]

Trastuzumab deruxtecan for treating HER2-low metastatic or unresectable breast cancer after chemotherapy

Technology appraisal

Trastuzumab deruxtecan for treating HER2-low metastatic or unresectable breast cancer after chemotherapy

Technology appraisal

Pembrolizumab with trastuzumab and chemotherapy for untreated HER2-positive advanced gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction cancer

Technology appraisal

Suspected cancer update

Quality Standard - update (underpinning guideline updated)

Caesarean birth - placenta accreta spectrum

Quality Standard - update (new clinical practice evidence)

Suspected Sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management (update)

Quality Standard - update (new clinical practice evidence)