NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Centre for Health Technology Evaluation

# Diagnostics Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting minutes

**Minutes:** Confirmed

**Date and time:** 25 May 2022

**Location:** Via Zoom

## Attendees

Committee members present

1. Mark Kroese (Chair) Present for all items
2. Liz Adair Present for all items
3. Joy Allen Present for all items
4. John Cairns Present for all items
5. Sam Creavin Present for items 1 – 2.2.6
6. Diane Davies Present for all items
7. Neil Hawkins Present for all items
8. Patrick McGinley Present for all items
9. Brendan Meyer Present for all items
10. Karen Sennett Present for all items
11. Brian Shine Present for all items
12. Matt Stevenson Present for all items
13. Alasdair Taylor Present for all items

NICE staff present

Rebecca Albrow, Associate Director Present for all items

Thomas Walker, Health Technology Assessment Adviser Present for all items

Jacob Grant, Health Technology Assessment Analyst Present for all items

Toni Gasse, Project Manager Present for all items

Harriet Wilson, Project Manager Present for all items

Alex Sexton, Administrator Present for all items

External assessment group representatives present

Rebecca Bresnahan, Research Associate, Present for items 1 to 2.2.6  
Liverpool Reviews & Implementation Group

Sophie Beale, Director, Hare Research Present for items 1 to 2.2.6

James Mahon, Director, Coldingham Analytical Services Present for items 1 to 2.2.6

Specialist Committee Members present

Raneem Albazaz, Consultant radiologist, Present for all items

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Heather Boult, Lay specialist committee member Present for all items

Pinelopi Manousou, Consultant in hepatology, Present for all items  
Imperial College NHS Trust

Alistair O'Brien, Professor and honorary consultant Present for all items  
hepatologist, UCLH & The Royal Free Hospitals

Observers present

Lucinda Evans, Coordinator, NICE Present for items 1 – 2.2.6

Olivia Havercroft, Senior Medical Editor Present for all items

Laura Marsden, Public Involvement Adviser, NICE Present for all items

Edgar Masanga, Business Analyst, NICE Present for all items

## Minutes

### Evaluation of MRI-based technologies for the assessment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

### The Chair welcomed members of the committee and other attendees present to the meeting

The Chair noted apologies from standing committee members Keith Abrams, Shelley Rahman Haley, Michael Messenger, Alexandria Moseley and Radha Ramachandran. He also noted that Rebecca Allcock was not attending due to a conflict of interest.

He further noted apologies from specialist committee members David Breen and Jeremy Shearman.

* 1. The committee approved the minutes of the committee meeting held on 26 April 2022.
  2. Part 1 – Open session

The Chair welcomed external assessment group (EAG) representatives, members of the public, and company representatives from Perspectum Ltd and Resoundant Inc.

* + 1. The Chair asked all committee members to declare any new relevant interests in relation to the item being considered. The following standing committee members had notified these interests in advance of the meeting:

Rebecca Allcock declared an indirect interest as her spouse is employed by GE Healthcare, as the UKI Public Private Partnerships Service Manager, although he has no direct involvement in any projects that cover MRI-based technologies for the assessment of NAFLD. It was agreed that this interest meant Rebecca Allcock could not participate in the discussions and she did not attend the meeting.

Joy Allen declared a financial interest as she is an employee of Roche Diagnostics UK and Ireland (since August 2021). Roche manufactures the commercially available Elecsys® GAAD test for the aid in diagnosis of early-stage HCC. She also declared an indirect interest as her spouse is employed by Siemens Gamesa (renewable energy manufacturer), majority shareholder being Siemens. Siemens Healthineers and Siemens are separate businesses. It was agreed that these interests would not prevent Joy Allen from participating in the meeting.

John Cairns declared financial interests as he had advised Takeda on the economic evaluation of maribavir (interest ceased August 2021) and he had provided advice on HTA of epilepsy treatments at a meeting organised by PWC Switzerland (completed Dec 2021). It was agreed that these interests would not prevent John Cairns from participating in the meeting.

Sam Creavin declared a financial interest as in March 2022 he had attended a one-off one-hour session from the commercial sector to discuss the general process for diagnostics tests, including for liver problems (no specific companies were named). It was agreed that this interest would not prevent Sam Creavin from participating in the meeting.

Neil Hawkins declared that a company of which he is a director has provided consultancy services to Echosens, the manufacturers of the Fibroscan transient elastography device which is indicated in the diagnosis of fibrosis and cirrhosis. It was agreed that this interest would not prevent him from participating in the meeting.

Patrick McGinley declared a financial interest as he is a Faculty Member of MTech Access, providing updates on NHS Finance regime and the impact of its changes to MTech Access. He also declared non-financial personal and professional interests as he is a Strategic Council member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Obesity, providing advice on costs of the disease within NHS to the APPG. He is the Honorary Treasurer for the Association for Study of Obesity (ASO). He is a Member of Obesity Policy Engagement Network UK (OPEN UK). It was agreed that these interests would not prevent Patrick McGinley from participating in the meeting.

Karen Sennett declared non-financial professional and personal interests as she was the Chair of North Central London Liver Group from 2014 to 2019, and co-author of research on NAFLD, not paid, during 2018. It was agreed that these interests would not prevent Karen Sennett from participating in the meeting.

Alasdair Taylor declared indirect interests as he is a Member of the British Society of GI and Abdominal Radiologists (since 2000), and an elected member of the governing council of the Royal College of Radiologists (since September 2020). It was agreed that these interests would not prevent Alasdair Taylor from participating in the meeting.

The following specialist committee members had notified these interests in advance of the meeting:

Heather Boult declared non-financial professional and personal interests as she is a lay member of the Pelvic Floor Dysfunction NICE guidelines committee; a member of the Children’s Liver Foundation; a member of the Peninsula Public Engagement Group (PenPEG) at Exeter Medical School, Exeter University; and a member of the Patient Participation and Involvement (PPI) Advisory Group, in the Academy of Nursing, University of Exeter. It was agreed that these interests would not prevent Heather Boult from attending the meeting.

Alastair O’Brien declared financial interests as he undertakes private practice at The London Clinic and will transfer to The Cleveland Clinic, London from September 2021. He has no input on the selection of liver MRI software or other equipment for either organisation. It was agreed that this interest would not prevent Alastair O’Brien from participating in the meeting.

* + 1. The Committee proceeded to discuss the clinical and cost effectiveness of MRI-based technologies for the assessment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.
    2. The Committee was asked if there were any specific equality issues to consider in relation to this assessment.
    3. The Chair asked the representatives of the manufacturers whether they wished to comment on any matters of factual accuracy.
    4. The Chair thanked the manufacturer representatives, the EAG and public observers for their attendance at the meeting.
    5. The Chair explained that “representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest (Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)” and all public attendees left the meeting.
  1. Part 2 - Closed session
     1. The committee discussed confidential information submitted for this item.
     2. The committee then agreed on the content of the Diagnostics Consultation Document (DCD). The committee decision was reached by consensus.
     3. The committee asked the NICE technical team to prepare the DCD in line with their decisions.

### Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Diagnostics Advisory Committee (next topic) will be held on 30 June 2022.