

Streamlining Health Technology Assessment: Fast-Tracking NICE's Technology Appraisal Processes

Session 307: HTA Case Studies II
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Presenter: Celia Mayers, Project Manager – Technology Appraisals & Highly Specialised Technologies

Co-author: Gavin Kenny, Programme Manager – Planning and Operations, TA and Health Tech (IP)

NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence



About NICE

NICE helps practitioners and commissioners get the best care to patients, fast, while ensuring value for the taxpayer.

We do this by:



Producing useful and usable guidance for health and care practitioners.



Focusing on what matters most by prioritising topics that are most important to the health and care system or address an unmet need.



Providing rigorous, independent assessment of complex evidence for new health technologies.



Encouraging the uptake of best practice to improve outcomes for everyone.

The health and care system is changing



We're seeing:

- health service pressures
- shared decision making
- growth in innovation
- vast amounts of data.

NICE

NICE is transforming too

NICE's core purpose remains the same: to help practitioners and commissioners get the best care to people fast, while ensuring value for the taxpayer.

But as the NHS transforms to meet future challenges, we need to play our part too.

To better serve people and the health and care system, NICE is evolving in 3 ways

We've listened to our stakeholders. While preserving our core values of transparency, rigour and independence, we need to change.

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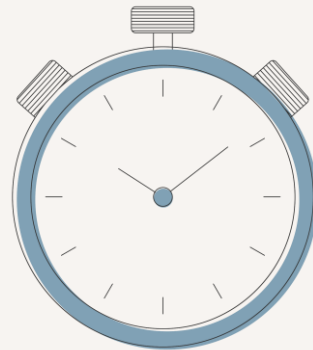
More relevant



...by focusing on what matters most

2

More timely and usable



...by providing useful and usable advice

3

Greater demonstrable impact



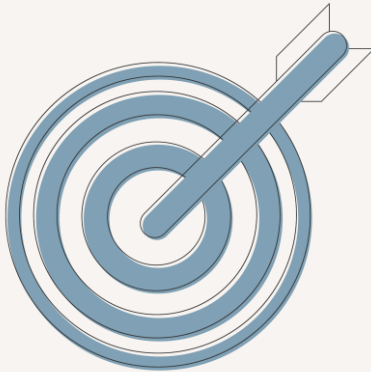
...by learning from data and implementation

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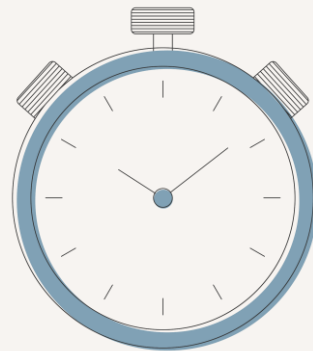
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NICE

The proportionate approach to technology appraisals (PATT) is part of this work.

Why are we creating new approaches to technology appraisals at NICE?



Supporting access

NICE appraises all new medicines and indications



Growing demand

In 2021/22 we published 94 pieces of technology appraisal guidance*.

Anticipated to grow to 120 per year



Capacity constraints

Across NICE, academic groups and committees, patient and carer groups, clinicians and industry



Complexity

How can we best use our time, and our stakeholders' time, to support rapid access to innovative medicines?

What is a proportionate approach to technology appraisals?

- The number, range and complexity of medicines we appraise has never been greater.
- But not all need the full intensity of our existing appraisals process
- Taking a proportionate approach:
 - Allows us to differentiate our appraisal process: promising medicines that do not need a full appraisal can use a simpler, faster process
 - Ensures we continue to have enough time for complex appraisals that need bespoke attention
 - Makes our approach speedier so that patients can have faster access
- Builds towards expanding capacity for us and our stakeholders for new evaluations by 20%, from 2023/24.



An overview of cost comparison appraisals



For evaluating new medicines where alternatives within the same therapeutic class have previously been recommended for use (or optimised use) by a NICE TA or HST.

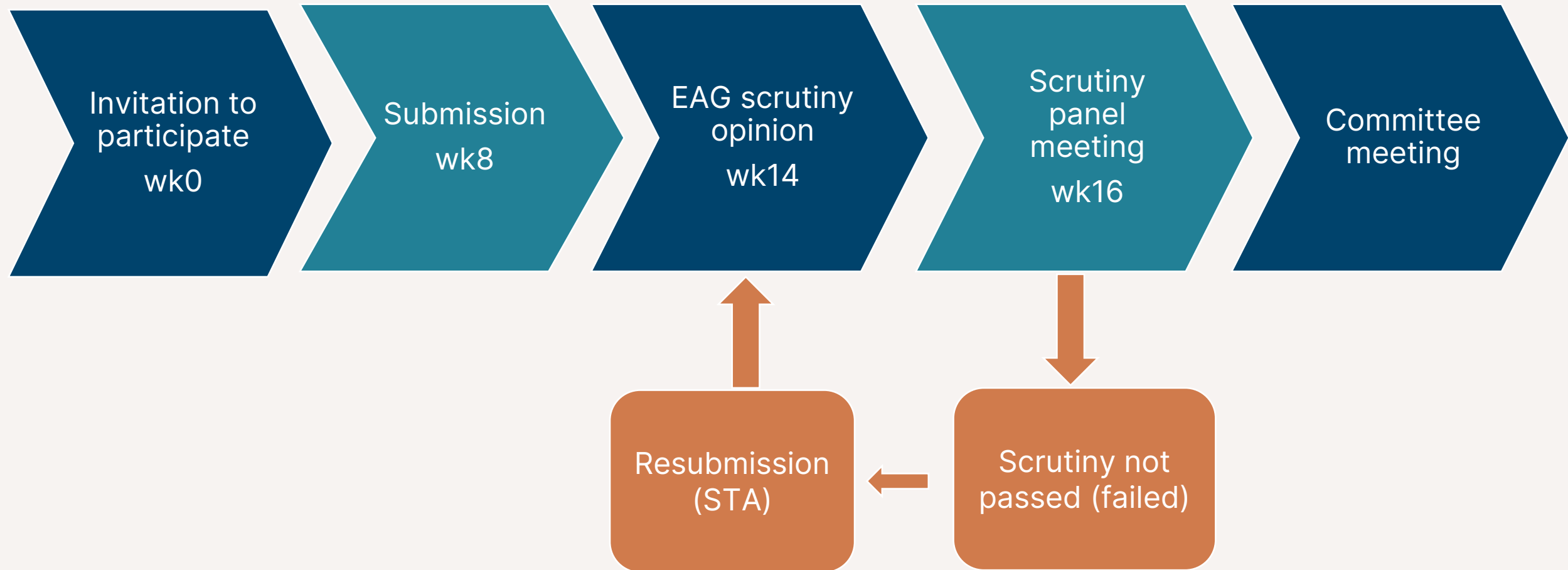


Introduced in 2017 and intended to be less intensive and faster than the single technology appraisal (STA) process.



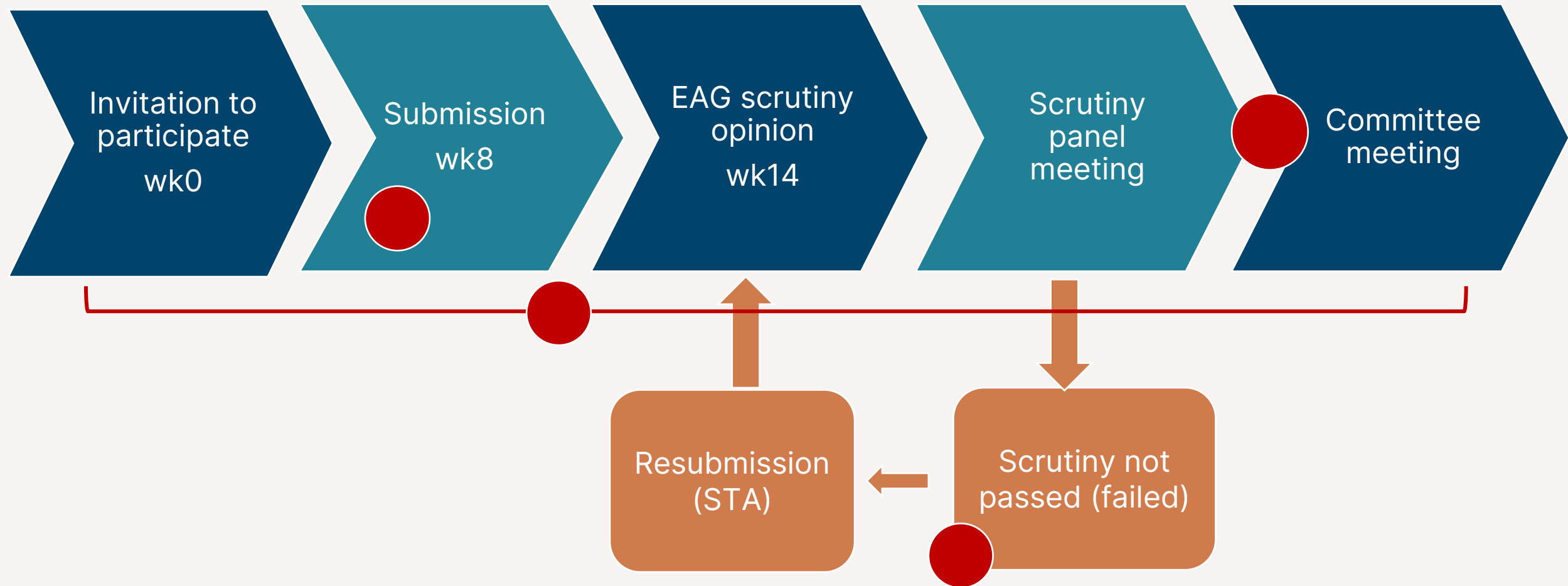
At the start of this work, we estimated 10-15% of appraisals a year could use this process, depending on the pipeline. This translates into between 10-20 evaluations (out of the projected 120) a year.

2017 'Fast-Track Appraisal' process for cost comparisons



2017 'Fast-Track Appraisal' process for cost comparisons

Identified areas of inefficiency



Inefficiencies and case for change

Headline	Detail
Slow	Average timeline for fast-track appraisals the same as for STA topics (40 weeks) ¹
Unpredictable & disincentivised for industry	High rate of “failure” at scrutiny step and need for resubmission as STA
Resource-intensive	One review step to determine suitability for cost comparison, second review step for committee decision

Aims of redesigning the cost comparison process:

1. Speed up process
2. Reduce resource needed for process (for NICE, industry, stakeholders, external assessment groups, and NICE committees)
3. Reduce failure rate and increase uptake of process

The new cost comparison process

Upfront process decision

Decision on process pre-invitation to participate. Additional information gained at scoping stage on clinical effectiveness, treatment pathway, population, and health benefits relative to comparator.

NICE-led, informed by stakeholders

NICE chooses most appropriate process for an evaluation based on input at scoping from stakeholders (including company), commissioner(s), and NICE Medicines Optimisation Team (MOT) briefing. MOT briefing summarises responses regarding clinical similarity from network of pharmacist associates.

Faster and less intensive

Timelines for key stages shortened as evidence requirements for cost-minimisation analysis different and less intensive than the cost-utility analysis used for STA evaluations. Standard length now 24 weeks.

Targeted committee input

Only one committee review step, outside of a formal committee meeting & by a subset of committee.

Outcomes

175,000 patients



have benefitted from these recommendations

5 treatments





Have been recommended through the new process

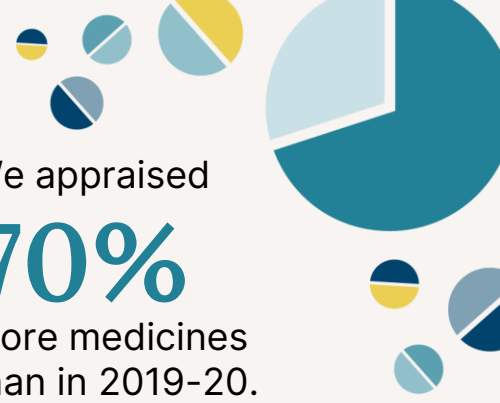
21 weeks




Was the fastest appraisal that followed the new process

The UK is  **3rd**  globally for the number of medicines commercialised within 1 year of regulatory approval.

 We evaluated medicines on average **17% faster**, meaning thousands of patients can **access new treatments sooner**.

We appraised **70%** more medicines than in 2019-20. 

We applied light-touch, proportionate evaluations to low-risk treatments, **up to 20 weeks faster** than our normal processes. 

Since this work concluded...

We have:

Applied the principles explored in the new cost comparison process to the STA process

- “Progression decision point” introduced for all STAs after external assessment report (EAR) to decide most appropriate next steps for decision making
- Options introduced to review simple decisions outside of a formal committee meeting. Technical engagement now an additional step to be added only where needed.

Incorporated the interim methods and processes into the methods and processes manual

- Modular update to the manual published on 31 October 2023. For example, sections 2.6, 5.7, and 5.8 refer to new cost comparison and STA processes.

Initiated work on more cost comparison appraisals (on the new process)

- 21 topics ongoing following cost comparison process – much higher uptake than expected

Held a public webinar on proposed changes to charging for technology appraisals and highly specialised technologies

- Some of the changes proposed relate to changes to the cost comparison process and the STA process
- Consultation on the proposed changes to follow

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NICE

Useful links

- [Taking a proportionate approach to technology appraisals](#)
- [NICE health technology evaluations: the manual](#)
- [NICE transformation plan](#)

Thank you

Celia.Mayers@nice.org.uk

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