Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

ROUND UP OF OUR HTA

# REPORTS, REVIEWS AND ADVICE

Jan - March 2023

# TUMOUR PROFILING TESTS FOR BREAST CANCER

**In Ireland, approximately 1,800 cases of hormone receptor-positive, and HER2-negative, early stage breast cancer are diagnosed each year, making it the most common form of breast cancer.**

**For early stage breast cancer, surgery to remove the tumour is usually the first treatment and other treatments, such as chemotherapy, may follow. For patients with a particular type of breast cancer, the decision to use chemotherapy can be informed by gene expression profiling (GEP) tests.**

**GEP tests aim to estimate the chance of the disease returning after surgery and of chemotherapy being effective in stopping it from returning. Currently, the HSE covers the cost of one GEP test called Oncotype DX®.**

**HIQA REVIEWED THE EVIDENCE FOR ALL THE COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE TESTS FOR THIS GROUP OF PATIENTS TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE HSE ON ALTERNATIVES TO ONCOTYPE DX®.**

For people with cancer that had spread to their lymph nodes, the test with the strongest evidence was Oncotype DX®. For people with cancer that had not spread to their lymph nodes there were more limited data to differentiate between the tests. However, the available evidence supported the continued use of Oncotype DX®.

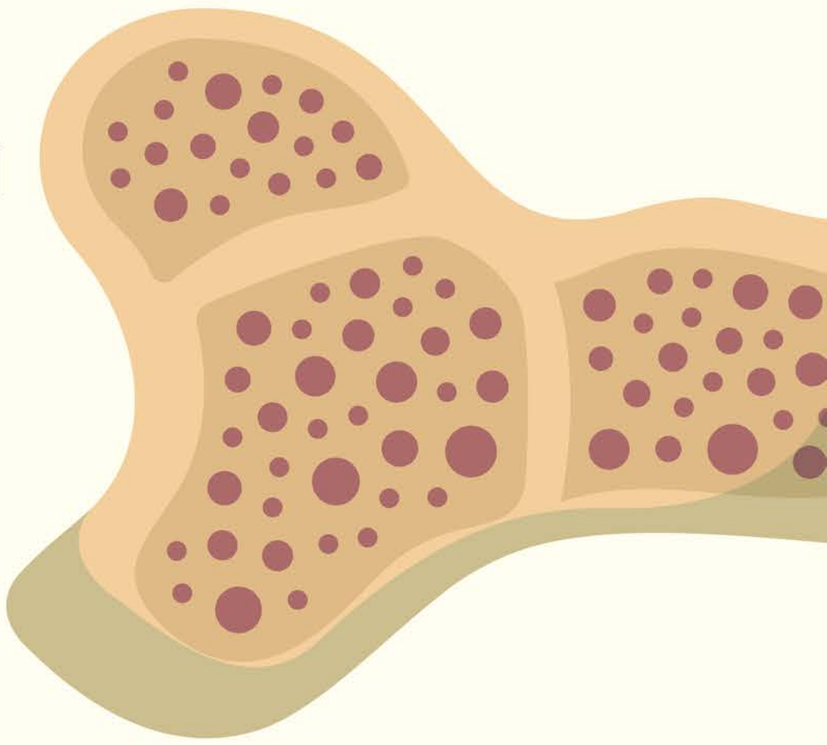
Decision-making on which GEP tests to provide within the public healthcare system should consider differences in factors such as: patient and cancer characteristics, test costs, and practicality of their use in Ireland.

The Health Information and Quality Authority April 2023

# STEM CELL TRANSPLANTS FOR CHILDREN: TREATMENT ABROAD VERSUS IN IRELAND

**HIQA ANALYSED THE COSTS, ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES, AND IMPACT ON THE PATIENT AND THEIR FAMILIES OF PROVIDING HAEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELL TRANSPLANT (HSCT) SERVICES IN IRELAND RATHER THAN ABROAD FOR CHILDREN WITH CERTAIN RARE INHERITED CONDITIONS.**

Stem cell transplants can treat children with certain inborn errors of metabolism, inborn errors of immunity and haemoglobinopathies. These conditions are inherited and they disproportionately affect ethnic minorities in Ireland.



**We estimated...**

that moving the service to Ireland for the patients currently treated abroad could lead to cost reductions for the HSE.

However, this would rely on the recruitment of additional staff, such as skilled nursing staff and support staff, across a range of disciplines.

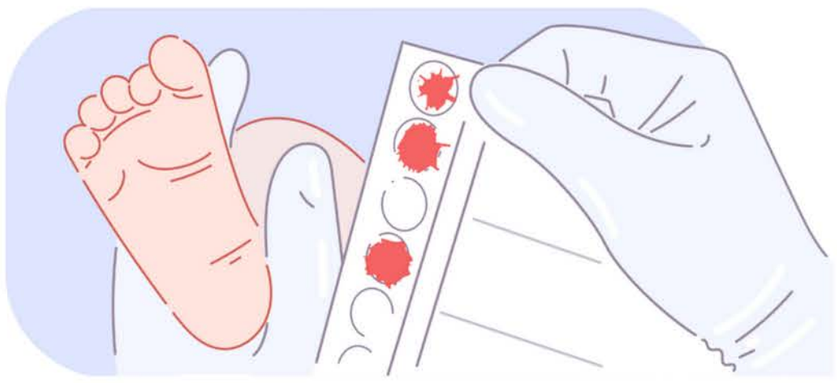
**We advised that repatriation of care is possible. HIQA's estimates took account of the increased transplant bed capacity when the HSCT service moves to the New Children's Hospital.**

Undergoing a stem cell transplant is a stressful time and travelling abroad increases this burden. Families, partners and siblings can be separated from one another for up to six months.

HIQA's assessment also found that repatriation of stem cell transplants to Ireland would reduce the financial, logistical and emotional burden that families face.

# HIQA PROVIDES ADVICE ON ADDING CONDITION TO HEEL PRICK TEST

HIQA has provided advice on the addition of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) to the National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme (NNBSP)



Newborn bloodspot screening, known as 'the heel prick test', screens for nine conditions and happens within the first 72 to 120 hours of life.

**In May 2022, screening for ADA-SCID was introduced. This review examined expanding the screening programme to include all types of SCID.**

SCID is a rare, but serious inherited condition that causes a child to have very low levels of T-cells (TCL). As a result, the child has a weak immune system and is very vulnerable to infection.

It is estimated that introducing screening for all types of SCID would cost the HSE €3.66 million over five years.

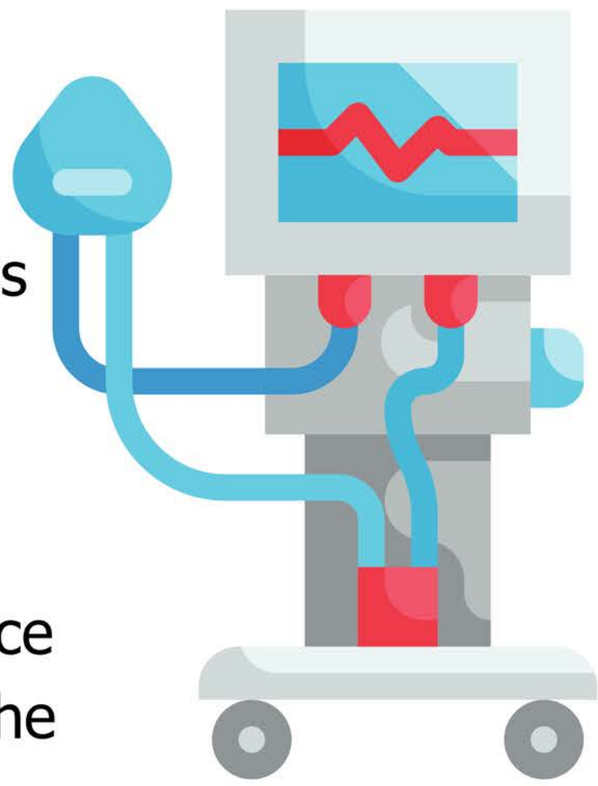
Operational considerations:

- establishing the testing method
- timing of implementation given planned move to the new children's hospital
- recruitment of laboratory staff
- management of non-SCID TCLs that may be identified through this form of screening

# NEW LAUNCHES

## HTA on home mechanical ventilation for adults with spinal cord injuries

We have begun work on this HTA, which was requested by the National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine in the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Spinal Cord System of Care Programme in the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH).



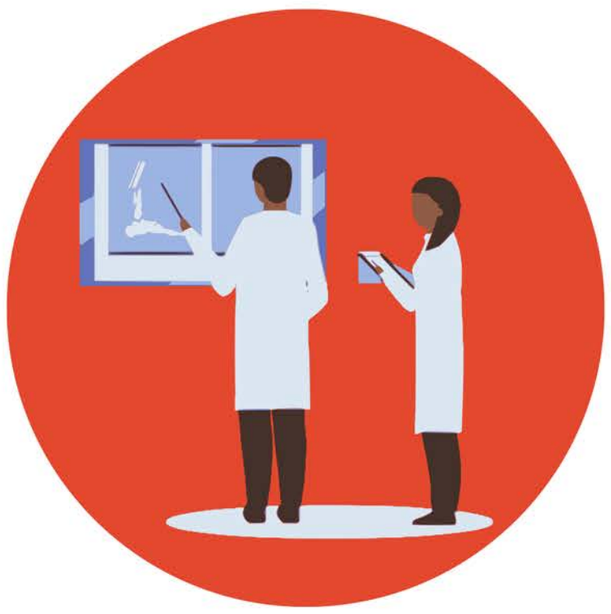
A spinal cord injury involves damage to the spinal cord that causes changes in its function, which can be either temporary or permanent.

The HTA will assess the organisational, budget impact and resource implications, as well as the social and ethical issues arising from the provision of care to individuals within their own home.

## New function for the generic justification of medical exposures to ionising radiation

Generic justification considers the potential benefits and harms of a new technology or practice when used for a particular reason in specific groups of patients. Generic justification is required before the new practice is routinely used on a day-to-day basis.

HIQA will evaluate the available evidence to guide its decision as to whether or not a new practice should be generically justified. These decisions will also be informed by input from HIQA's Medical Exposures to Ionising Radiation Expert Advisory Group.



**WHO SHOULD APPLY?**

Hospitals, service providers and anyone in the public or private sector wishing to provide a new practice involving medical exposure to ionising radiation in Ireland are now required to apply to HIQA for generic justification before they can use the practice on a day-to-day basis.

# Academic Publications

**Since 2022, we have made our academic publications available on our website.**

**The dedicated webpage houses our staff's peer-reviewed academic publications in the hopes of making this research more accessible for researchers and members of the public alike.**

As part of our vision to inform safer services, better care and decisions and provide independent assessment, we regularly undertake research and publish our work in peer-reviewed academic journals

# Academic Publications

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer care in Ireland – Perspectives from a COVID-19 and Cancer Working Group

Date of publication: 24 February 2023
Journal: The Journal of Cancer Policy
Authors: Seamus O'Reilly, Hailey Kathryn Carroll, Deirdre Murray, Louise Burke, Triona McCarthy, Robert O'Connor, Claire Kilty, Sonya Lynch, Jennifer Feighan, Maeve Cloherty, Patricia Fitzpatrick, Katrina Falvey, Verena Murphy, Mary Jane O'Leary, Sophie Gregg, Leonie Young, Eilish McAuliffe, Josephine Hegarty, Anna Gavin, Mark Lawler, Paul Kavanagh, Susan Spillane, Terry McWade, Mairead Heffron, Karen Ryan, Paul Kelly, Aileen Murphy, Mark Corrigan, Paul Redmond, Patrick Redmond, Paul Walsh, Paula Tierney, Mengyang Zhang, Kathleen Bennett, Maeve Mullooly
Digital object identifier: DOI:10.1016/j.jcpo.2023.100414

## Safety of varicella vaccination strategies: An overview of reviews

Date of publication: 8 December 2022
Journal: Reviews in Medical Virology
Authors: Susan Ahern, Kieran A. Walsh, Simona Paone, John Browne, Marie Carrigan, Patricia Harrington, Aileen Murphy, Conor Teljeur, Máirín Ryan.
Digital object identifier: DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2416

## Clinical efficacy and effectiveness of alternative varicella vaccination strategies: An overview of reviews

Date of publication: 15 November 2022
Journal: Reviews in Medical Virology
Authors: Susan Ahern, Kieran A. Walsh, Simona Paone, John Browne, Marie Carrigan, Patricia Harrington, Aileen Murphy, Conor Teljeur, Máirín Ryan
Digital object identifier: DOI: 10.1002/rmv.2407

## The effectiveness and acceptability of evidence synthesis summary formats for clinical guideline development groups: a mixed-methods systematic review

Date of publication: 27 October 2022
Journal: Implementation Science
Authors: Melissa K. Sharp, Dayang Anis Binti Awang Baki, Joan Quigley, Barrie Tyner, Declan Devane, Kamal R. Mahtani, Susan M. Smith, Michelle O'Neill, Máirín Ryan & Barbara Clyne.
Digital object identifier: DOI: 10.1186/s13012-022-01243-2

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