



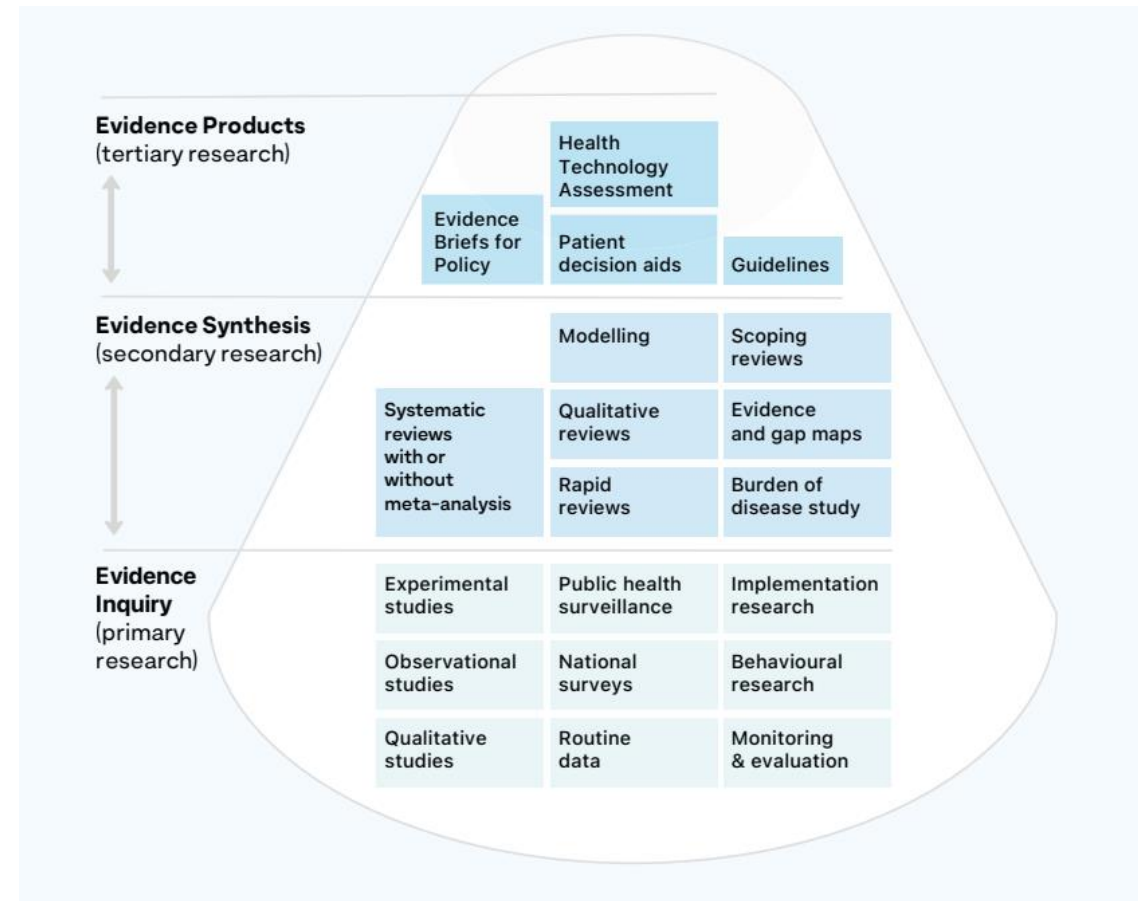
Karen Cardwell PhD, Senior HTA Analyst
on behalf of

Health Technology Assessment Directorate, Health Information and Quality Authority

Presentation outline

- Evidence-informed decision making
- Health technology assessment
- Evidence synthesis to inform the national public health response to COVID-19
- Challenges and enablers
- Outputs and impact
- Evidence-informed decision making post-pandemic

What is evidence-informed decision making?



What is a health technology assessment (HTA)?

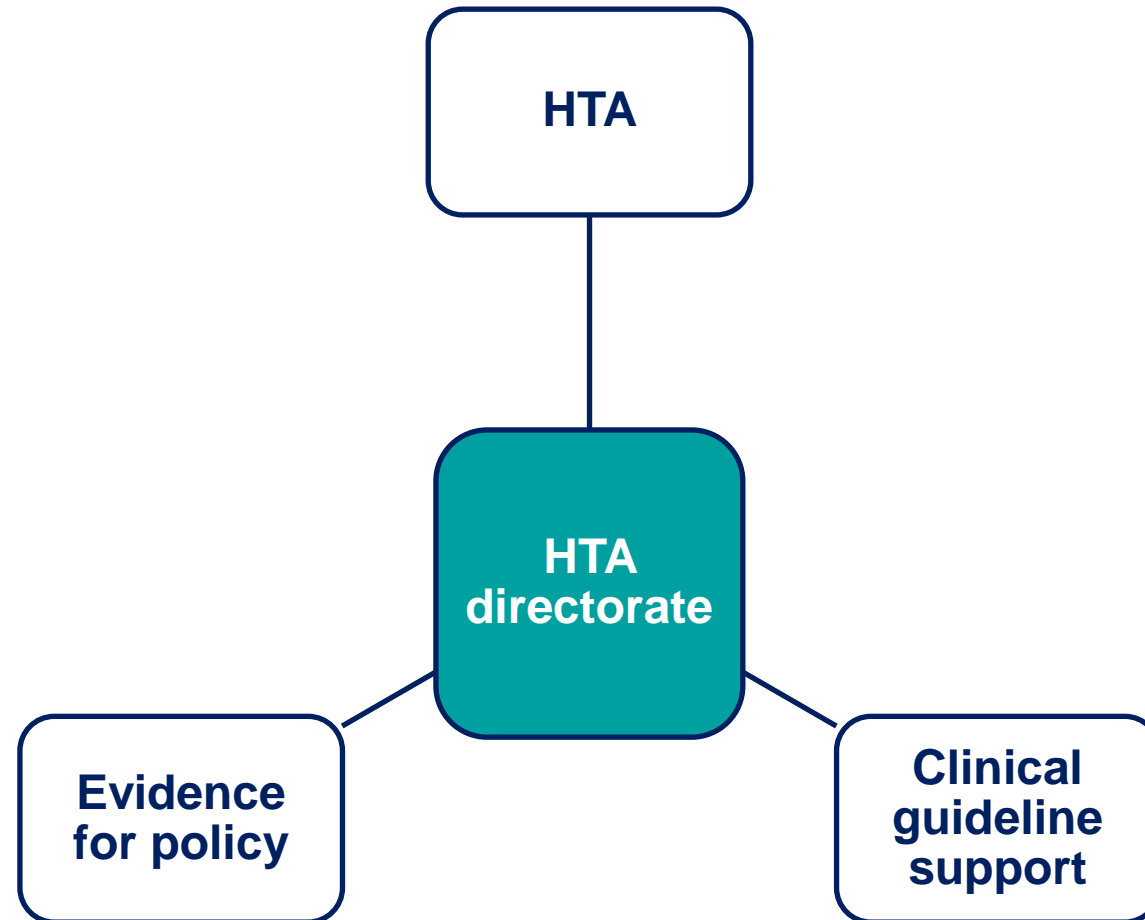
- Multidisciplinary research process
- Summarises information about a health technology
- Health budget in Ireland is finite
- Important to establish the clinical effectiveness, safety, cost effectiveness, budget impact and resource implications of any new technology
- A HTA supports and informs health policy and reimbursement decisions



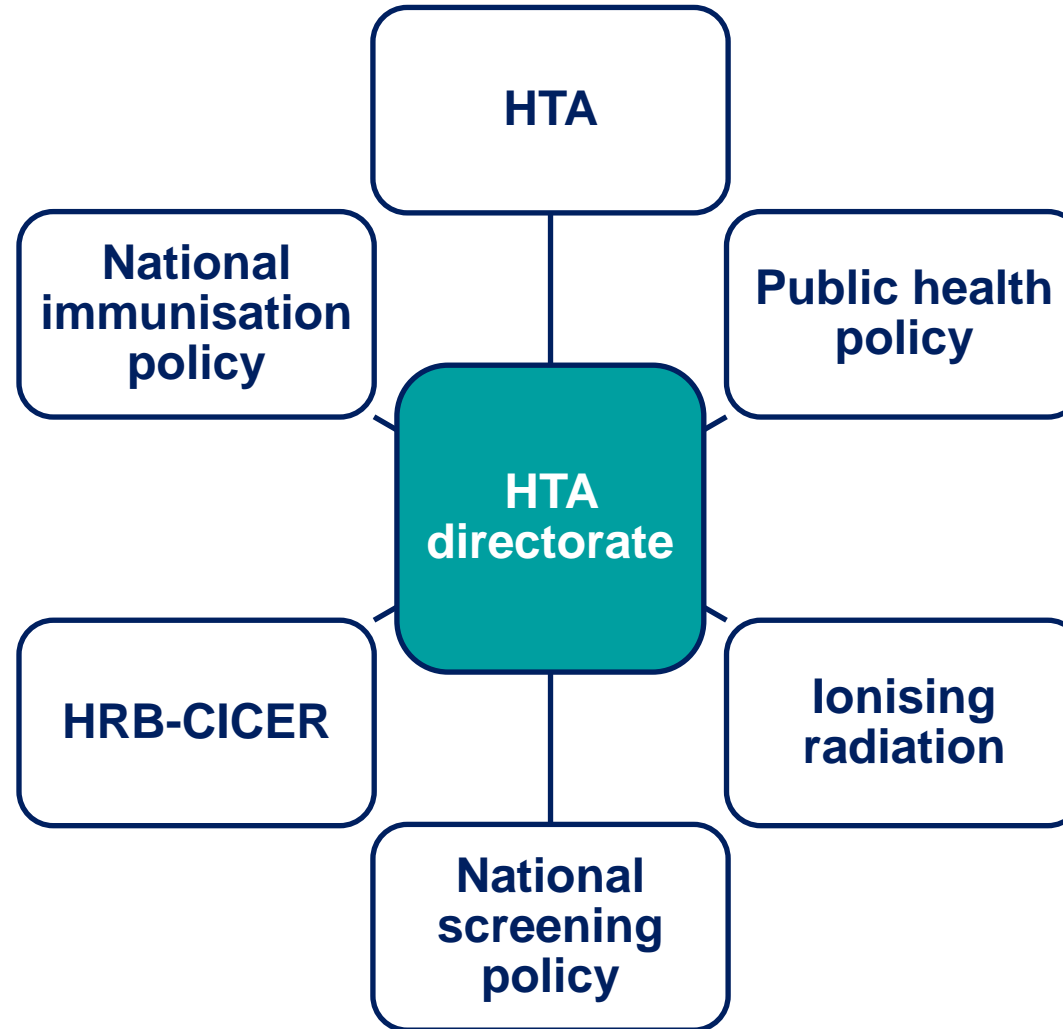
Who conducts HTAs in Ireland?



HTA directorate functions pre-pandemic



HTA directorate functions post-pandemic



HTA directorate – who we work with

We work with:

- Clinical and policy leaders
- Patient and public representatives
- Academic links and methods experts
- Grant funding
- Training and fellowships
- International collaborations



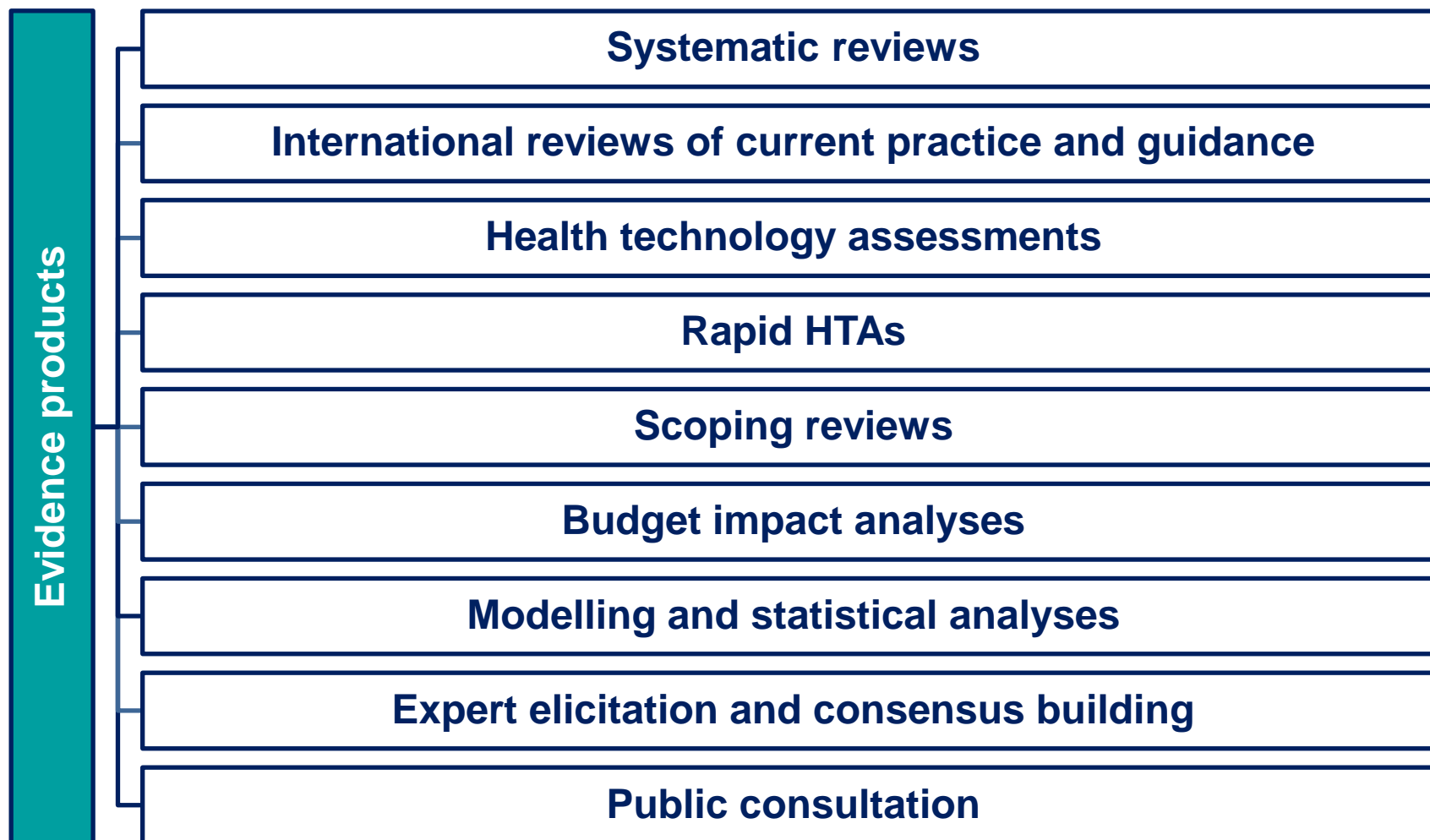
An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



SPHeRE
Structured Population and
Health-services Research Education



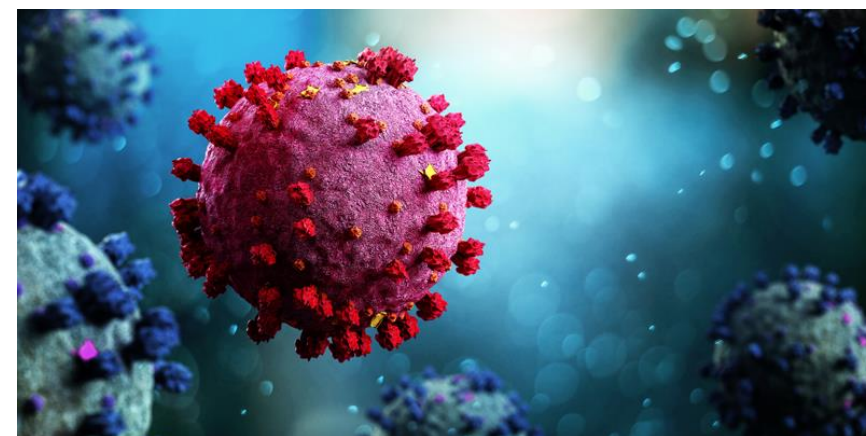
Types of outputs the HTA directorate produces



Evidence synthesis to inform
the national public health
response to COVID-19

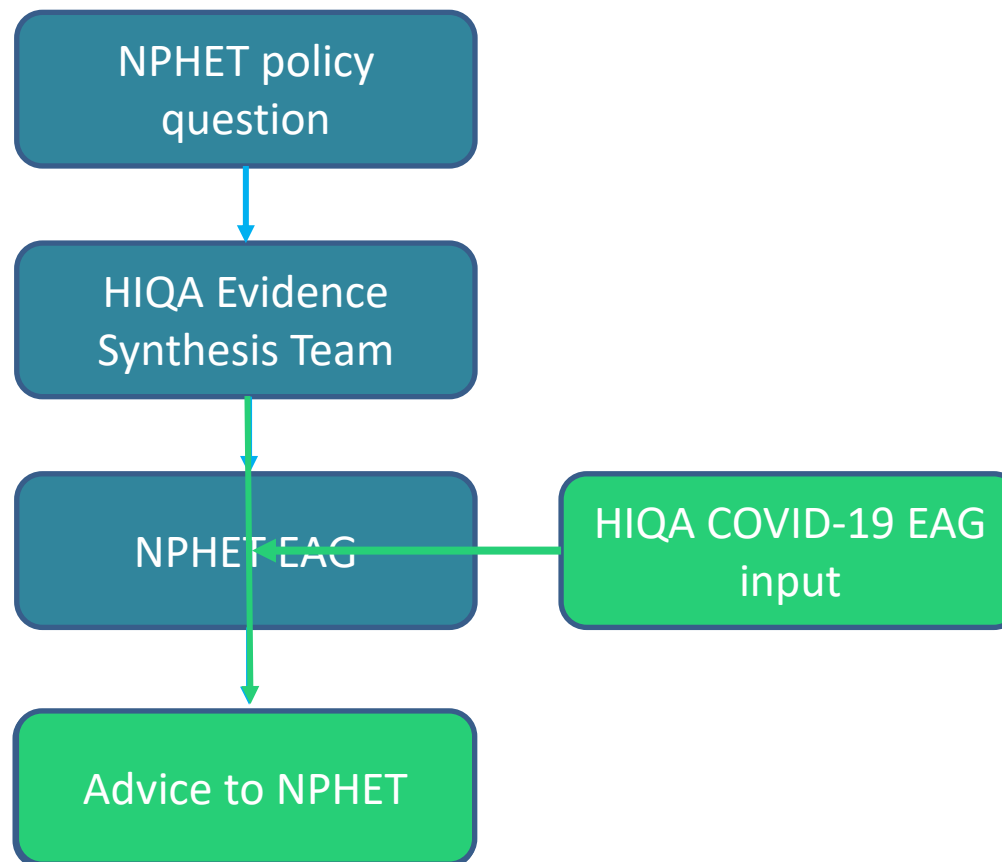
Evidence synthesis to inform the national public health response to COVID-19

- January 2020 NPHET established
- March 2020 HIQA requested by Department of Health to provide evidence synthesis support to NPHET and HPSC
- Director of HTA became a member of NPHET and Chair of the NPHET Guidance and Evidence Synthesis Subgroup



HIQA – Health Information and Quality Authority; HPSC – Health Protection Surveillance Centre; HTA – Health Technology Assessment; NPHET – National Public Health Emergency Team.

Phase I March 2020 to September 2020
Phase II September 2020 to Present



Note: NPHE replaced by COVID-19 Advisory Group (CAG) in April 2022

Rapid evidence synthesis to inform policy during COVID-19 pandemic



CAG – COVID-19 Advisory Group; DoH – Department of Health; EAG – Expert Advisory Group; HIQA – Health Information and Quality Authority; HTA – Health Technology Assessment; NPHET – National Public Health Emergency Team.

Rapid evidence synthesis to inform policy during COVID-19 pandemic

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Policy question	Scoping
Protocol and deliverables		Evidence synthesis		
Evidence synthesis				
Draft report				
COVID-19 EAG	Draft Advice		NPHET	

Challenges to providing evidence-informed advice during the pandemic

**Tight
timelines**

**Volume of
literature**

**Scope of
questions**

**Use of pre-
prints**

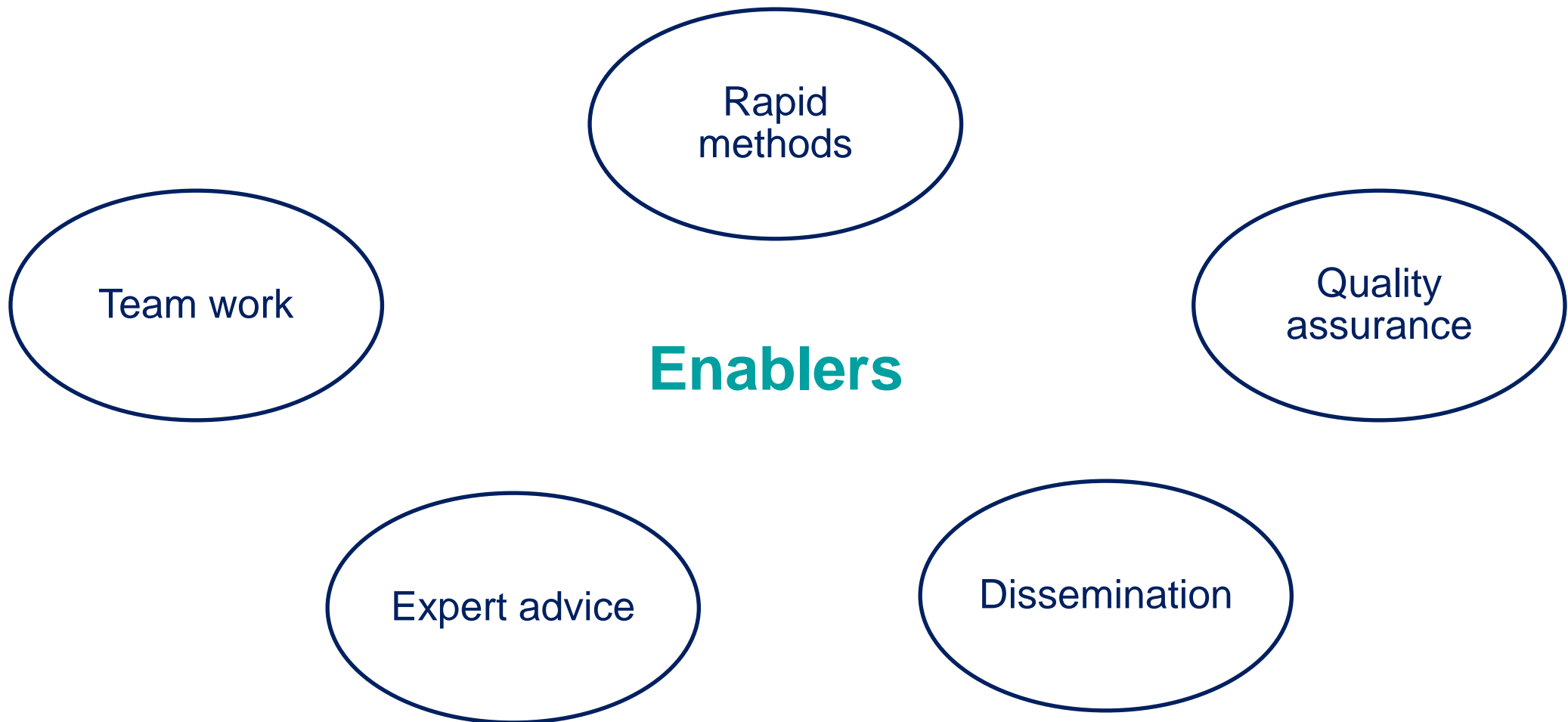
**Quality
appraisal**

**Formulation
of advice**













**Media and
public
interest**

**Need for clear
messaging**

Factors that enabled the provision of evidence-informed advice



Outputs and impact: HIQA publications

Publication Type		Outputs
	Rapid HTAs	2
	Analysis & Modelling	12
	HTAs	6
	Evidence summaries	64
	Facilitated discussions	5
	Advice reports	18
	Care pathway reports	6
	High level or international review	80
	Databases and catalogues	223
	Academic Publications	33
	Evidence Synthesis Bulletins	11
	Review of policy measures to limit the spread of COVID-19	61

Outputs and impact: Examples of evidence informing policy

Evidence summary on activities or settings associated with a higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission

18 November 2020

Potential impact of different serial testing scenarios using rapid antigen detection tests (RADTs) to detect SARS-CoV-2 in meat processing plant workers

Submitted to HSE: 29 April 2021
Published: 30 April 2021

Rapid review of public health guidance on identification and management of symptoms in children and young people attending school in the context of COVID-19

04 September 2020

Evidence summary for the incubation period of COVID-19, or time to first positive test, in individuals exposed to SARS-CoV-2

Published: 4 November 2020

Evidence summary for care pathways support for the resumption of scheduled hospital care in the context of COVID-19

18 June 2020

Outputs and impact: radio

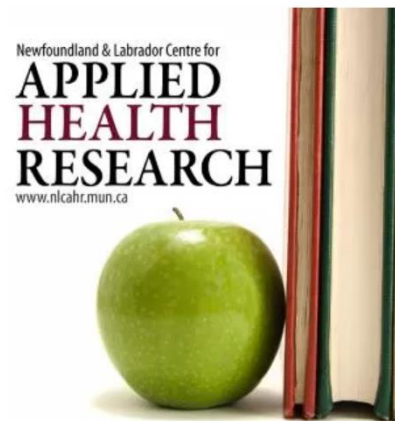
MEDIA COVERAGE IN 2021-22 ON HTA EVIDENCE OUTPUTS



RADIO STATIONS THAT INTERVIEWED HTA TEAM MEMBERS IN 2021-22



Outputs and impact: informing international research and guidance




Outputs and impact: Conference contributions



Outputs and impact: Academic publications


REVIEW

Pharmacological interventions to prevent Covid-19 disease: A rapid review


Karen Cardwell , Eamon O Murchu, Paula Byrne, Natasha Broderick, Kieran A. Walsh, Sinéad M. O'Neill, Susan M. Smith, Patricia Harrington, Máirín Ryan, Michelle O'Neill


First published: 28 September 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/rmv.2299> | Citations: 1

A rapid review of measures to support people in isolation or quarantine during the Covid-19 pandemic and the effectiveness of such measures

Karen Cardwell , Sinéad M. O'Neill, Barrie Tyner, Natasha Broderick, Kirsty O'Brien, Susan M. Smith, Patricia Harrington, Mairin Ryan, Michelle O'Neill


Original research
General medicine

Perspectives on the production, and use, of rapid evidence in decision making during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative study 



 Barbara Clyne^{1, 2}, Lisa Hynes³, Colette Kirwan³, Máire McGeehan³, Paula Byrne², Martha Killilea^{4, 5}, Susan M. Smith¹, Máirín Ryan^{2, 6}, Claire Collins⁷, Michelle O'Neill², Emma Wallace¹, Andrew W Murphy^{3, 5}, Maureen E Kelly³
Correspondence to Dr Barbara Clyne, Department of General Practice, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dublin, Ireland;

REVIEW

The effectiveness of non-contact thermal screening as a means of identifying cases of Covid-19: a rapid review of the evidence


Karen Cardwell , Karen Jordan, Paula Byrne, Susan M. Smith, Patricia Harrington, Mairin Ryan, Michelle O'Neill

The duration of infectiousness of individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2

Kieran A. Walsh ¹  • Susan Spillane¹ • Laura Comber • Karen Cardwell • Patricia Harrington • Jeff Connell • Conor Teljeur • Natasha Broderick • Cillian F. de Gascun • Susan M. Smith • Máirín Ryan² • Michelle O'Neill² • [Show less](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

REVIEW

Effectiveness of public health measures to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at mass gatherings: A rapid review

Kieran A. Walsh , Barrie Tyner, Natasha Broderick, Patricia Harrington, Michelle O'Neill, Christopher G. Fawsitt, Karen Cardwell, Susan M. Smith, Máire A. Connolly, Máirín Ryan

Outputs and impact: print media

Independent.ie

More comfortable Covid-19 test for school children may be possible - HIQA



THE IRISH TIMES

Hiqa warns indoor spaces create higher risk of Covid-19 spread

Danger particularly case where 'shouting and singing' and prolonged contact occurs

© Wed, Nov 18, 2020, 11:11 | Updated: Wed, Nov 18, 2020, 11:12

Paul Cullen Health Editor

Irish Examiner

Temperature screening at airports 'ineffective, Hiqa warns



thejournal.ie

Hiqa advises NPHET that Covid-19 reinfection is 'rarely documented but possible'

Studies cited by Ireland's health watchdog indicate that antibodies that respond to Covid-19 last between 2-6 months.

THE IRISH TIMES

Health watchdog recommends no change to coronavirus 14-day self-restriction period

Reducing 2-week restricted movement period presents increased risk of transmission, Hiqa warns

© Wed, Nov 4, 2020, 10:21 | Updated: Wed, Nov 4, 2020, 10:23

Outputs and impact: print media

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS: FESTIVITIES DEALT A BLOW

PARTY POOPERS

chefs' lammed
disappointment of chefs has been relatively low so far, but it's been a blow to the festive season. The RIAA has been hit hard by the crisis, with many chefs reporting a drop in bookings. The RIAA has been hit hard by the crisis, with many chefs reporting a drop in bookings. The RIAA has been hit hard by the crisis, with many chefs reporting a drop in bookings.

student payment
I could payment to help students with their bills. I could payment to help students with their bills. I could payment to help students with their bills. I could payment to help students with their bills. I could payment to help students with their bills.

Will we hug again?

Family gatherings at Xmas now in doubt

NPHE: Bashes are transmission hotspots

REPORT NPHE'S Dr Mairin Ryan

Will we hug again?

IRLAND LATEST
Cases: 69,104 (up 379)
Deaths: 2,006 (up 12)

WORLD LATEST
Cases: 56,238,005 (up 299,296)
Deaths: 1,349,86 (up 6,000)

WRITING ON WALL
Mural in Dublin catches the mood yesterday

WRITING ON WALL Mural in Dublin catches the mood yesterday

Evidence-informed decision making post-pandemic



Thank you



**Health
Information
and Quality
Authority**

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