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8th August 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2024/25-069

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office for the following information. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and SCCL are able to provide a response in blue below:

• I have been made aware of a decision by the Specialised Services Devices Programme to no longer fund the HeartLogic technology via this programme, which I understand was communicated to NHS Trusts in May 2024. I would like to request the following information relating to this decision under a Freedom of Information request please so as to understand decision taken:

1. To the best of my knowledge, this decision was not communicated to Boston Scientific, the manufacturer of this technology. Please explain the rationale to not communicate this with them.
[The decision was communicated verbally to Boston Scientific in April and communicated in writing in May 2024.](#)
2. Which NHS Trusts in England was the notification of this decision sent to? Please provide a list.
[Any changes in reimbursement are communicated by NHS England regionally to the trusts. Communication was sent in March 2024 to inform trusts that enhanced remote monitoring services would not be reimbursed. Further communication specific to HeartLogic was sent between 2nd May 2024 and 7th May 2024. You may wish to contact NHS England at \[england.ssdp@nhs.net\]\(mailto:england.ssdp@nhs.net\) for any further detail.](#)
3. Which process were SSDP following in identifying, assessing and concluding that this technology should no longer be funded? Please provide a copy of (or link to) the process and methodology used here.
[SSDP funded categories are regularly reviewed in line with clinical use and budget reviews as part of the overall programme management. You may wish to contact NHS England at \[england.ssdp@nhs.net\]\(mailto:england.ssdp@nhs.net\) regarding overall processes.](#)
4. Please provide dates when this topic was (a) first discussed by SSDP and (b) when the decision was fully signed off internally.
[HeartLogic was discussed at several NHS England SSDP forums up to May 2024.](#)

5. Please clearly state the recorded reason(s) this decision was taken.

There has been a comparison of enhanced remote monitoring services. A letter was issued to NHS trusts stating "The Specialised Services Devices Programme team have reviewed the significant cost and impact of HeartLogic Technology and have concluded that the Programme will not fund the cost for its usage as this would be deemed as monitoring Heart Failure in the community, and thus it is not an excluded device. While we understand that some clinicians may wish to use it, this will be a provider decision and will not be reimbursable by the SSDP."

6. Please provide meeting minutes of meetings where this topic was discussed, if available.
SCCL does not hold this information.

7. Please state all stakeholders who were involved in this decision, approval or ratification thereof, including those outside the SSDP team. Please include the role of NHS Supply Chain colleagues in this process.

NHS England SSDP PMO team and NHS E Specialised Commissioning Finance. NHS Supply Chain provided NHSE SSDP PMO Team with details of all enhanced remote monitoring services on NHS Supply Chain's SSDP and In-Tariff catalogue.

8. What is the funding status for providers who purchased HeartLogic after the start of the current financial year but before the date this decision was communicated? We understand there is 1 month between the referenced implementation date (start of the financial year) and the date the decision was communicated (1st May).

NHS England Finance decide which trusts will be reimbursed, between the decision being made and communicated.

9. What provision(s) were considered in order to ensure those Trusts using it can continue to access this technology in the short term while local funding arrangements are put in place?

All providers are still able to access and purchase the technology through NHS Supply Chain's In-Tariff Catalogue.

Although HeartLogic Technology will not be reimbursed by the programme, research and investigation of the devices moving through this programme will continue. Going forward, if trusts would like to share any significant evidence highlighting benefits and savings attributed to HeartLogic, this information would be welcomed and can be sent to england.ssdp@nhs.net.

10. When assessing the HeartLogic technology, did SSDP consider assessing any other comparable technologies?

SSDP do not fund the additional cost of enhanced remote monitoring services.

11. At any point since January 2023, have SSDP followed a similar process to that applied to HeartLogic to assess the funding status of the HeartInsight or TriageHF technologies specifically?

SSDP do not fund the additional cost of enhanced remote monitoring services. There will be no separate enhanced remote monitoring services (Heart Insight, Triage HF, Focus On, HeartLogic etc) available on NHS Supply Chain's SSDP Catalogue for reimbursement going forward.

12. If yes to question 11, please state the outcome of any discussions and associated rationale, and current funding status for each of the technologies separately. Please provide copies of any formal communications sent out to NHS Trusts confirming this funding status if available.

SCCL does not hold this information. Communication sent by the NHSE SSDP PMO Team in March 2024 to inform Trusts that enhanced remote monitoring services would not be reimbursed. You may wish to contact NHS England at england.ssdp@nhs.net for any further detail.

13. If no to question 11, if the HeartInsight and TriageHF technologies are to be considered in future meetings, please provide approximate timelines and if there are no current plans to assess these technologies through this process, please state for each technology separately.

N/A

14. If no to question 11 and there are no current plans to assess these technologies, please state the reason(s) TriageHF and HeartInsight have not been considered under a similar process as applied to HeartLogic and confirm whether any different processes were followed for technologies that are commercially linked to device sales (e.g., TriageHF) versus those available as stand-alone (e.g., HeartLogic)? Please provide separate responses for each technology.

N/A

15. If no to question 11 but different processes have been followed for the assessment of TriageHF and HeartInsight technologies, please provide a copy of (or link to) the process and methodology used here, state the start date and end date of the relevant assessments and confirm the outcome of the assessment(s) for each technology separately

N/A

For further information regarding SSDP we advise you contact england.ssd@nhs.net.

We hope that this response addresses your request. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

Supply Chain Coordination Limited
Management Function of NHS Supply Chain