



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

NHS Health Check: content review process guidance

1. Introduction

First established in 2008 the NHS Health Check programme aims to tackle the top seven risk factors driving the burden of non-communicable disease.

In April 2013 secondary legislation came into force making it a legal duty for local authorities to make provision for the delivery of the programme. In England, all local authorities now offer an NHS Health Check to their local population aged between 40 and 74 years of age that do not have pre-existing cardiovascular disease. A summary of the pathway and its components are shown at figure 1.

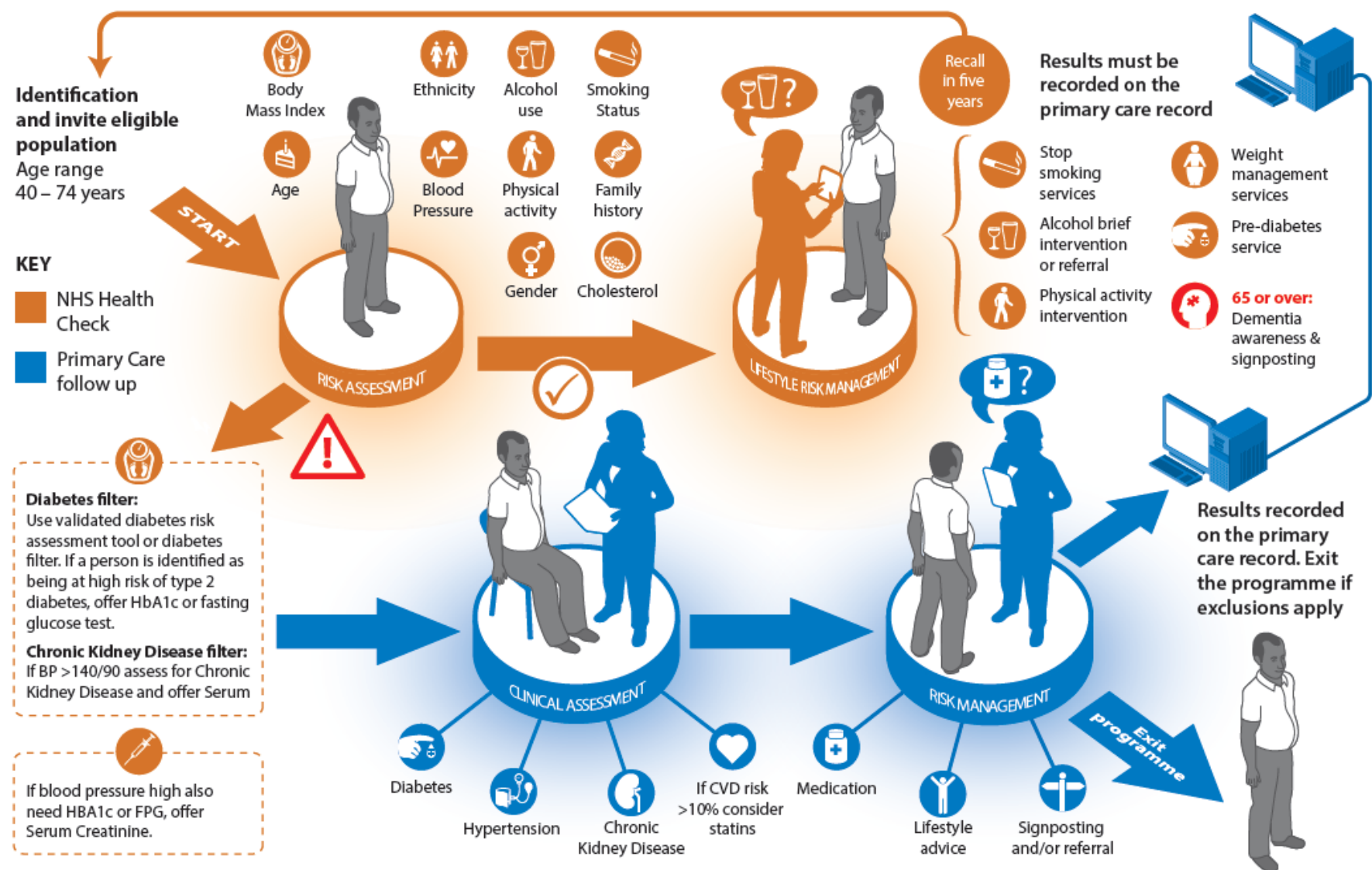
As the NHS Health Check programme has become established Ministers, the Department of Health, as well as internal and external stakeholders have sought to extend its benefits to other areas. This has led to requests for amendments to existing elements or for the inclusion of new elements to the programme.

Public Health England (PHE) recognises the importance of considering proposals to change the NHS Health Check programme and the need to have a robust case underpinning any such request. In 2013 PHE established the Expert Scientific and Clinical Advisory Panel (ESCAP). A key responsibility of this group is to consider proposals to change the content of the NHS Health Check programme and to make an informed, evidence based, recommendation to the Minister.

To support ESCAP in fulfilling this responsibility a content review process, set out in this document, has been agreed. More on the process and what you will need to do if you want to submit a proposal is contained within this guidance.

Figure 1. NHS Health Check pathway and components

NHS Health Check



2. The content review process

2.1 Stage 1

There are seven stages that must be completed for a change to existing or introduction of new content to the NHS Health Check, see annex A for an overview.

The first stage involves completing section 1 questions 1 to 12 of the content review form and submitting it to the ESCAP secretariat. This information will then be considered by ESCAP to determine whether there is agreement, in principle, to exploring the introduction of the proposed change in greater depth. Table 1 provides more information on how to complete section 1, before doing so, please make sure that you are familiar with the programme's [best practice guidance](#) which sets out the current delivery requirements

Table 1. Completing section 1

Question	Guidance
1	Broadly categorise the type of change that you are proposing. Are you seeking to introduce new content, amend existing content or change the population the programme is targeted at?
2	Provide a short summary of your proposed change . You need to clearly set out what your change is.
3	Identify up to three indicators from the NHS or Public Health outcome frameworks that your proposal supports.
4	Identify the NHS Health Check programme objectives your proposal will help to support .
5	Summarise how the proposed change will support the achievement of the objective .
6	Provide a summary of the clinical effectiveness of the proposed change . Please draw on existing National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) or Health Technology Assessment (HTA) evidence where this is available. Where it is not please demonstrate that you have drawn on the highest quality evidence available i.e. systematic review.
7	Provide a summary on the cost effectiveness of the proposed change . Please draw on economic evaluation evidence.
8	Describe how your proposal would work in practice . Set out what providers of the NHS Health Check would have to do that isn't currently

done or what would they need to change.

- 9 Where you are proposing a new component to the programme, for example, the introduction of a lung function test in order to detect for example Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) you will need to ***describe the effective treatment and management systems that exist that are available*** for COPD.
- 10 Provide an initial indication of the ***impact your proposal will have on health inequality and the nine protected characteristic groups***. Please state whether the change will have a negative, neutral or positive overall impact on health inequalities and the nine protected characteristic groups and provide a short summary of the evidence that has informed this judgement.
- 11 If there is an ***example of a local authority that is already delivering your proposed change*** as part of the NHS Health Check please cite them.
- 12 Provide ***references to key evidence sources*** that underpin the summaries that you've provided in questions 6 and 7.

In completing these sections it is essential that your proposal demonstrates that it:

- a. supports a strategic health priority;
- b. aligns with the purpose of the NHS Health Check programme;
- c. does not have a negative impact on the protected characteristic groups or health inequalities;
- d. can be operationalized;
- e. where appropriate, has a validated assessment tool;
- f. is clinically effective;
- g. is cost effective; and
- h. where appropriate, there are management or treatment systems already in place.

You should then submit the form with the completed section 1 to the ESCAP secretariat at nhshealthcheck.mailbox@phe.gov.uk by the **31 March 2019**.

2.2 Stage 2

This stage seeks to explore, in greater depth, the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and health equality impact of the proposal. If, at stage 1, you were able to provide evidence from NICE or a HTA of clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness then you will only need to complete and then summarise the findings of a full equality impact needs assessment in section 2 question 20 of the content review form.

If ESCAP agreed that further investigation of the proposal is warranted but you were unable to reference this level of cost and clinical effectiveness evidence the ESCAP secretariat will work with you to identify the best approach to securing the quality of evidence needed for a proposal to be considered at this stage. Once this evaluation work has been completed you will then need to summarise the findings against questions 18 and 19 and submit the form with the completed section 2 to the ESCAP secretariat for an agreed date.

The outcome of the ESCAP discussion regarding stage two of your proposal will be shared with you within three weeks of the date of the ESCAP meeting where it was considered.

2.3 Stage 3

The purpose of the third stage is to establish whether the proposed change can be operationalized, how it will work in practice, and to understand how much it will cost to deliver. To achieve this you will work with the ESCAP secretariat to design and deliver a feasibility pilot. Alternatively, if there is suitable evidence from a local authority that is already delivering your proposal within their NHS Health Check programme it may be possible to secure the appropriate information from them without the need for a feasibility study.

Once the feasibility study has completed you will need to summarise the findings in section 3 questions 25 to 30 of the content review form. You will need to submit the form to the ESCAP secretariat for consideration at a forthcoming ECAP meeting. ESCAP will consider the findings of the feasibility study and make a final decision on whether or not to recommend the implementation of the proposed change to ministers.

2.3 Stage 4

ESCAPs recommendation and the proposal will then be publicly consulted on.

ESCAPs recommendation and the feedback from the consultation will be shared with the National Advisory Committee (NAC). NAC will then make a recommendation to DH and the minister for their consideration.

2.4 Stage 5

Where the outcome does not require a change to the Local Authority Regulations 2013 then the process will move directly on to stage 7. If changes are needed to the underlying regulations then the minister will consider the change before it moves to stage 6.

2.5 Stage 6

If the consent of Parliament is required the information and evidence gathered through stages 1 to 4 will be used to make the case for amending the Regulations and for drafting revisions to the Regulations to present to Parliament.

2.6 Stage 7

At this stage the proposed changes to the NHS Health Check will be included into the best practice guidance and all local authorities alerted to the change. Any agreed change will be announced in the update to the best practice guidance, ready for implementation in the following financial year. This is a fixed point in time because it ensures that the NHS Health Check delivery system has adequate time to make the necessary finance, commissioning and delivery preparations to introduce the change in to practice.

3. Timing

It is anticipated that the time required for completing this proposal will take in the region of 24 months. However, this will be dependent on whether regulatory changes are needed and the level of clinical and cost effectiveness evidence available. For some proposals the timeline may be considerably shorter.

4. Transparency

PHE are committed to transparency in this decision making process and will publish the content review forms at each of the relevant stages and publish an update on the outcome of stages 5 and 7 on the NHS Health Check website.

5. Contact

If you have any questions or queries about the process or completing the content review form contact: Katherine.thompson@phe.gov.uk

6. FAQs

Can anyone submit a content review proposal?

Yes. Completed proposal forms will be accepted from any organisation.

If an evidence review is needed for my proposal who will pay for that?

Where a proposal is progressed to stage 2 and it is identified that a cost or clinical effectiveness review is needed then PHE will work with you to identify the most appropriate organisation to progress this work.

If a proposal has been submitted and rejected is it worth submitting it again?

We would recommend that you only resubmit a proposal if new evidence becomes available. This evidence will need to address the concerns raised by ESCAP at the time they agreed that the proposal should not be progressed.

Annex A: Content review process summary.

