

Written evidence submitted by the British Association of Dermatologists (DHS0031)

General comments from the British Association of Dermatologists:

It is important to remember all 4 nations must be involved in any future national digital developments including the digitisation of the NHS and implementation of any new validated evidence-based AI applications. The British Association of Dermatologists has established strong links with the HEE and funded successful Topol Digital Fellowships and continues to fund fellows for a 4th batch in 2022/2023. The British Association of Dermatologists has also established an AI Working Party Group and a Digital Workstream to develop digital strategies which align across the British Association of Dermatologist's strategic aims to improve patient care and services. The new website has a new [Patient Hub](#) to assist patients to find relevant skin information.

Specific comments are listed under each policy area and commitment:

1. POLICY AREA: The care of patients and service users

Commitment 1

The commitment has a clear and fixed deadline for implementation.

We are unable to comment on funding arrangements.

Regarding equity of impact, does this apply to the 4 nations? If this is England only, it disadvantages the other nations, it should be levelling up of digital services between the 4 nations.

In relation to improvement in measurable outcomes, it is difficult to measure outcomes here based on the impact of these commitments.

In relation to the question have (some) patients and service users been hindered by the commitment and its implementation, it may leave out less digitally literate patients, including the elderly, patients who do not have smartphone apps.

It is agreed it is a useful target for the commitment to achieve meaningful improvement for service users, healthcare staff and/or the healthcare system as a whole.

In relation to scope, integrated health and care records are an important commitment to cover interoperability.

Commitment 2

Important commitment from a British Association of Dermatologists perspective in terms of empowering patients with long term chronic dermatoses to self-manage better.

Commitment 3

Important commitment for interoperability.

Evidence and Data

These are useful data points.

2. POLICY AREA: The health of the population

Commitment 1

Collating large datasets for research both clinical trials and training AI is a valuable commitment.

Need to be able to deliver more personalised treatment but this will start at a population wide level including epigenetic studies for more tailored treatments.

Commitment 2

We agree de-identification of data is necessary.

3. POLICY AREA: Cost and efficiency of care

Commitment 1

Seems a relatively vague commitment in specifics but wide in scope.

The British Association of Dermatologists group on AI has done some good work with their position statement on AI and advice for healthcare provider considering purchasing AI / AI- assisted technologies

Commitment 2

This is an important commitment as there are a wide range of commercial technologies on offer, which can be confusing for NHS procurement teams

A competitive market is healthy as long as NHS standards are clearly defined.

Evidence required

Evaluation of any new digital products must be robust to ensure quality as well as cost effectiveness.

4. POLICY AREA: Workforce literacy and the digital workforce

Commitment 2

The British Association of Dermatologists has done good work in the area of the digital workforce by funding Topol fellows and the digital dermatology steering group

Nov 2022