

Topol Review

Frequently asked questions

[Facing the facts, shaping the future](#), the draft health and care workforce strategy for England to 2027, highlighted the importance of digital technology in changing the way patients and staff perceive, understand and manage health.

The Secretary of State for Health and Care has commissioned a major independent review to explore how NHS staff can make the most of technology to improve services and help ensure a sustainable NHS.

The Technology Review is being led by Dr Eric Topol, and is also known as the Topol Review.

What is the scope of the Topol Review?

The Review will provide independent advice to the Secretary of State for Health and Care on:

- how technological and other developments are likely to change the roles and functions of clinical staff in all professions over the next two decades to ensure safer, more productive, more effective and more personal care for patients;
- what the implications of these changes are for the skills required by the professionals filling these roles, identifying professions or sub-specialisms where these may be particularly significant;
- the consequences for the selection, education, training, development and life-long learning of current and future clinical staff.

Who is leading the Review?

[Dr Eric Topol](#) is from [The Scripps Research Institute](#).

HEE is facilitating this work. Patrick Mitchell, HEE's Regional Director for the South of England is the senior responsible officer for the Review.

What is the approach?

The Review is examining the educational implications of innovation in the 'here and now', as well as looking to how new technologies and developments are likely to change the roles and functions of clinical staff, and of non-clinical staff working in the clinical environment.

A Review Board has been established, supported by three Expert Advisory Panels, on artificial intelligence, digital medicine, and genomics.

Our Expert Advisory Panels are exploring the evidence and insights gathered from a diverse range of sources, thinking about the implications for the NHS workforce across three timelines (0-5 years; 7-10 years; and 10-20 years).

Who is leading the Expert Advisory Panels?

Each Expert Advisory Panel is headed up by two leading experts in the field.

Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

- Dr Hugh Harvey MBBSs BSc(Hons) FRCR MD(Res)
- Professor Mihaela van der Schaar PhD

Digital Medicine

- Professor Rachel McKendry BSc PhD
- Professor Lionel Tarassenko CBE FEng FMedSci MA DPhil CEng FIET

Genomics

- Professor Sir Nilesh Samani MD FRCP FMedSci DL
- Professor Mark McCarthy MA, MB, BChir, MD, FRCP, FRSB, FMedSci

Who are you talking to in this review?

The Review Board is working through three Expert Advisory Panels. This is the first time that such an array of subject matter experts – clinicians, public health experts, economists, educationalists, ethicists, engineers, physical scientists, lay members of HEE's Patient Advisory Forum and researchers – have been assembled to focus on education and workforce development.

Evidence and comments are being sought from any organisation or individual with an interest in workforce education and development, with a view to informing the Final Report.

How may I comment on the interim report?

You are invited to read the [interim report](#) and comment online via Topol.hee.nhs.uk. The call for evidence closes on 29 August at noon.

How may I submit evidence to the Review?

You are invited to read the [interim report](#) and comment online via Topol.hee.nhs.uk. The call for evidence closes on 29 August at noon.

What is the timeline?

The [interim report](#) was published on 28 June 2018.

The final report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Health and Care by the end of 2018, with engagement across the Service starting in 2019.

What risks are associated with advancing technology and how do we mitigate against them? What safeguards will be put in place for patients to protect them?

Without transparent, resilient, robust and legally enforceable data governance structures, policies and practices that the British public regard as ethical, rights respecting and trustworthy, the promised benefits of data-driven technological innovations in healthcare and medicine will not be realised.

Does moving forward with technology put some clinical roles at risk? Will people lose their jobs?

This Review will help forecast, in its Final Report, whether incorporating the new technologies will have an impact on the projections for the expanded workforce, with different types of staff likely to be needed in different numbers, as staff roles change or new roles emerge.

We anticipate a gradual, but substantial, reconfiguration of clinical roles to meet the new challenges associated with the introduction of complex, evolving genomic technologies. The pace of change will differ by speciality and by individual medical practice, but will ultimately impact on all healthcare professionals.

How can I gain further information?

For further information please look out for regular updates to these FAQs and [visit our website](#).

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