

29 November 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Half a billion pounds saved by medical technology equivalent to extra 20,000 nurses

Report by the Medical Technology Group calls for debate around NHS rationing

Coronary angioplasty, used to open blocked coronary arteries and restore blood flow to heart muscle, saves the UK economy over £120 million per year and returns 32,000 people to the workplace, a new report by the Medical Technology Group has revealed.

The report '*Keeping Britain Working - How medical technology can help reduce the cost of ill health to the UK economy*' concludes that £476 million in savings could be generated from the use of eight technologies in reduced long-term health costs and benefit payments. If that money was put back into the NHS it would pay for 20,000 nurses or 10.5 million GP visits.

Just over a fifth of the savings (22%) comes from coronary angioplasty (also known as percutaneous coronary interventions, or PCI). Almost 100,000 (96,143) PCI procedures were carried out in 2015, with 36% in people of working age (under 60 years old). As 93% of patients in employment return to the workplace after a PCI, this means that 32,456 patients became economically active again. When multiplied by the cost of Jobseeker's Allowance (£3,801 per year), the savings in benefits alone are £123.3 million per year. This is replicated every year for the rest of the patients' working lives.

PCI is one of eight areas highlighted in the report to illustrate the value that medical technology delivers and its potential to help the NHS balance its books. The study examined data for hip replacements; implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs); insulin pumps; diagnostics, including sepsis; fibroid embolisation; pain management; wound care; and coronary angioplasty.

Barbara Harpham, Chair of the Medical Technology Group, said, "Medical technology has an enormous impact, both in terms of the quality of life that it offers patients and in the cost savings to the health service and the wider economy. Very often a single procedure can get a patient back to work or caring for their family and can instantly eliminate thousands of

pounds in longer term treatment or unplanned admissions. In fact, we have not yet tapped into the full potential of all the medical technology currently available.

She added: “The trouble is that the upfront cost of medical technology often means patient access is being limited and cheaper short-term solutions being chosen; in other words, a false economy.

“With the NHS budget under increasing pressure, it’s time we rethink the approach to rationing medical treatments that gives people back their lives. It may look good on paper in this budget year, but doesn’t benefit patients and costs the health service more in the long run.”

The MTG’s report builds on data from a study by the Work Foundation in 2011. The research concluded that the UK economy saved £90 million per year by using three medical technologies: hip replacements; insulin pumps; and ICDs.

Other findings from the MTG’s 2017 report include:

- 18,500 people are currently in work thanks to hip replacements, saving the UK economy £70 million per year.
- £3 million per year is saved by patients returning to work with an ICD. If the rate of implants in the UK were equivalent to the European average, the saving would increase to £4.3 million.
- Insulin pumps save the UK economy £13.8 million every year by enabling people with diabetes to manage their condition more effectively and give them the freedom to work and lead active lives.
- Giving greater access to fibroid embolisation, which can avoid a more invasive and traumatic hysterectomy, could deliver £76 million per year in savings.
- 1,000 people could return to work with a Spinal Cord Stimulator, to help them manage chronic pain, delivering annual savings of £3.8 million.
- Better management of chronic wounds can help patients and deliver £25.3 million in savings per year.
- £160 million of savings could be achieved and 11,000 lives saved by using rapid diagnosis to screen patients with suspected sepsis.

The Medical Technology Group is calling for a debate on the approach to the uptake and use of medical technology, and that the NHS:

1. Considers all the evidence, acknowledging the wider societal benefits of medical technology and the value of returning patients to work and living independently;
2. Communicates the benefits, increasing patient awareness and choice and aligning clinical practice with the benefits of technologies recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE);
3. Seizes the opportunities, such as including formal reviews of technology in national standards and guidance, and rewarding long-term decision-making to improve health outcomes, and instilling long-term incentives to secure the recommended uptake.

-ends-

For media enquiries, please contact:

The Medical Technology Group
Colin Hallmark or Rod de St Croix
0207 736 1888
info@3nine.co.uk

Notes to editors

About the report

In 2011 the Work Foundation published a report entitled '[Adding Value: The Economic and Societal Benefits of Medical Technology](#)', sponsored by the MTG. The report looked at the wider societal benefits of giving patients access to medical technology and outlined the financial savings that could be made. The report found that three technologies: hip replacement; insulin pumps; and Implantable Cardiac Defibrillators delivered savings of around £90 million per year to the UK economy.

To assess further impact, in its 2017 report the Medical Technology Group reviewed a further five technologies. Over 100 sources of data - ranging from NHS Digital; the National Joint Registry; the National Diabetes Audit; and the NICOR Database of Cardiovascular Interventions; to media reports and peer-reviewed academic papers - were consulted. Looking at the savings to the NHS and welfare spending relating to the eight therapeutic areas, the MTG calculated the total financial savings generated by using technology.

The 2017 report can be accessed at www.mtg.org.uk/major-studies/

ABHI, AdvaMed, AntiCoagulation Europe, ARMA, Arrhythmia Alliance, Arthritis Care, Atrial Fibrillation Association, BD, British Kidney Patient Association, Boston Scientific, British Cardiac Patients Association, C R Bard, Cardiomyopathy UK, Coloplast, Diabetes UK, Edwards Lifesciences, Eucomed, FABLE, FEmISA, Group B Strep Support, Heart Research UK, Heart Valve Voice, ICD Group, INPUT, Insightec, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, Intuitive Surgical, JDRF, Nevro, Johnson & Johnson, Lindsay Leg Club Foundation, Medtronic, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, Pancreatic Cancer UK, Pelvic Pain Support Network, Pumping Marvellous, Roche Diagnostics, SADS UK, Smith & Nephew, Smiths Medical, St Jude Medical, STARS, Stryker, The Circulation Foundation, The Patients Association, The Somerville Foundation



The impact of cardiovascular disease and coronary heart disease

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) causes more than a quarter (26%) of all deaths in the UK, nearly 160,000 per year. An average of 435 people die each day from the condition, one every three minutes. CVD is estimated to cost the UK economy £30.7 billion per year, almost half (47%) from direct healthcare costs, 27% from productivity losses, and 26% from informal care of those with the condition.

Coronary heart disease, the narrowing of the arteries that leads to the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart being reduced, is estimated to cost the UK economy nearly £9 billion per year. Studies have shown that 150,565 working years are lost from deaths due to coronary heart disease, with 71% of these among men in the 45-64 year age range. In total it is estimated that 65.4 million working days are lost because of incapacity resulting from cardiovascular disease.

About the Medical Technology Group www.mtg.org.uk

The Medical Technology Group (MTG) is a coalition of patient groups, research charities and medical device manufacturers working to make medical technologies available to everyone who needs them. Uptake of medical technology in the UK is not as good as it should be, given its great potential to provide value for money to the NHS, patients and taxpayers. The MTG believes that patients and clinicians need better information about medical technologies so that they can make informed choices about their medical care.

About the Work Foundation www.theworkfoundation.com

The Work Foundation is the leading independent authority on work and its future. It aims to improve the quality of working life and the effectiveness of organisations by equipping leaders, policymakers and opinion-formers with evidence, advice, new thinking and networks.