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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Medical technology can solve NHS problems**

*Medical Technology Group marks 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with renewed call for medtech adoption*

The biggest challenges facing the NHS, including the backlog of patients waiting for treatment, the 'postcode lottery' of care, and the growing burden of long-term conditions, could be solved in part by medical technology, a new report by the Medical Technology Group argues.

The '*Medtech the Solution*' manifesto, published to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the MTG's formation in 2001, celebrates the achievements in medical technology in the past two decades, as well as the benefits it has brought by improving patients' lives, making the NHS safer and more efficient, and helping people back to work.

The report includes contributions from Rachel Power, CEO of the Patients Association, Dean Russell MP, and health innovation policy expert, Paul Blakeley. It calls for better access to medical technology to reduce pressure, clinician time, and costly interventions in the NHS, and recommends:

- Prioritisation of the patient voice, including consulting patients on decisions around commissioning and funding, and offering them all the diagnosis and treatment decisions available so they can make an informed choice.
- Accelerated access for patients to medical technology, so that any technology recommended by NICE is taken up at pace and scale across the country, with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) implementing and being accountable for uptake.
- Fair and timely commissioning, where commissioning decisions by NHS England and proven, recommended technologies are linked to funding, wider societal value is included in NICE decisions, and long-term decision making that improves health outcomes is rewarded.

Barbara Harpham, Chair of the MTG, said, "Hospital technologies such as robotic assisted surgery, patient technology like stents and implantable cardioverter defibrillators, and safety

ABHI, AdvaMed, AntiCoagulation Europe, ARMA, Arrhythmia Alliance, Arthritis Care, Atrial Fibrillation Association, BD, British Kidney Patient Association, Boston Scientific, British Cardiac Patients Association, 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



technology like antibacterial sutures have transformed healthcare and improved patients' lives dramatically over the past twenty years, helping millions live full and active lives.

“But the past twenty months have seen the pressure on the NHS grow inordinately and we now face the enormous challenge of dealing with a huge backlog as well as the mounting demand caused by an ageing population.

“Medical technology can make a real difference and is the answer to many of these problems. It can improve diagnosis, streamline patient pathways, speed up access to treatment, and improve care and outcomes.

“We now need the policies and incentives to reflect the important role that medical technology can play, so it is adopted widely and fairly across the whole country.”

The manifesto was launched on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November as part of the events to mark [Medical Technology Awareness Week 2021](#).

Download a copy of the manifesto [here](#).

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A copy of the ‘*Medtech the Solution*’ manifesto can be downloaded [here](#).

A short video, featuring an interview with Barbara Harpham, is available [here](#).

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### **About the Medical Technology Group**

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.

[www.mtg.org.uk](http://www.mtg.org.uk)