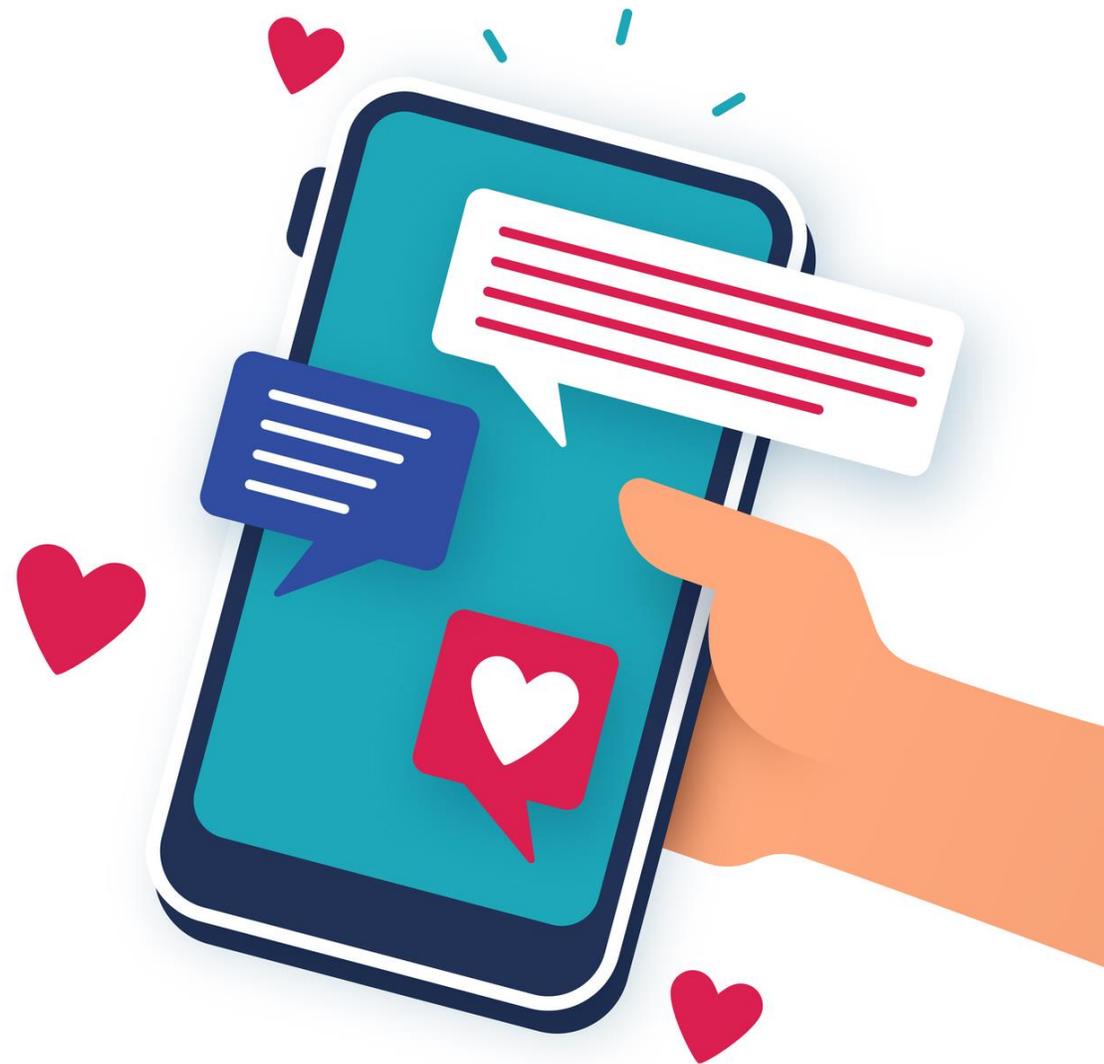


Decision support tools comms toolkit

July 2022



Overview

NHS England has developed a [suite of eight decision support tools](#) to support people and clinicians to hold a shared decision making conversation. Each decision support tool outlines the condition, possible treatment options and associated risks. These are:

- Making a decision about Dupuytren’s contracture
- Making a decision about carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)
- Making a decision about hip osteoarthritis
- Making a decision about knee osteoarthritis
- Making a decision about further treatment for Atrial fibrillation (AF)
- Making a decision about Cataracts
- Making a decision about Glaucoma
- Making a decision about Wet Age-related macular degeneration

These were published on NHS England’s website 20 July 2022.

Objectives/Aims

- To share with stakeholders for each relevant decision support tools and encourage use of their channels to reach clinical staff and seek feedback by 31 December 2022.
- To share with people through patient stakeholders and seek feedback by 31 December 2022.

Making a decision about further treatment for: **Atrial Fibrillation (AF)**

For people who still have symptoms despite taking medicines to control their AF

What is this document? This document is called a decision aid. It is for people who have been told they have atrial fibrillation (also called AF) and are having symptoms. It will help you decide between the different treatments available. You should go through it and talk to your specialist nurse or heart rhythm team.

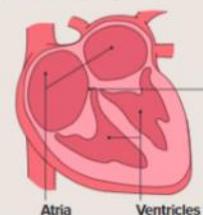
Read pages 1 – 6 to help you make a decision about treatment

Read page 7 if you want more background information

What is atrial fibrillation (AF)?

- AF is the most common heart rhythm disorder. It is caused by faulty electrical signals in the upper chambers of the heart (atria) causing it to beat out of rhythm. These signals travel to the ventricles (bottom chambers of the heart) through the AV node causing symptoms.
- Not everyone experiences symptoms of AF in the same way. It's very individual.
- Many people don't even know they have AF because they don't have any symptoms. For other people the symptoms can be serious. Some people find it stressful to have AF because episodes can be very unpredictable.
- AF can be serious even if you don't have any symptoms but it is treatable. Symptoms can usually be well managed with treatment. You usually have the condition for the rest of your life.

Atrioventricular node or AV node (passes electrical signals from atria to ventricles)



Atria Ventricles

Which type of AF do you have?

Paroxysmal Episodes of AF can last from a couple of minutes to a few hours. They stop and start on their own.	Persistent Each episode of AF is constant, for more than 7 days. They start on their own but need something to make them stop (like a medicine).	Permanent The AF is there all the time.
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These are the most common symptoms of AF. Think about which are affecting you and tick the relevant boxes below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Palpitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tiredness	<input type="checkbox"/> Breathlessness	Other: <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness or Feeling faint	<input type="checkbox"/> Anxious or stressed	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue	

Audience and insights

Audience(s)

- Clinical staff in all health settings
- Patients with the conditions to which the decision support tools are



Key stats or insights

Shared decision making is important as:

- it can create a new relationship between individuals and professionals based on partnership (Mulley et al, 2012)
- people want to be more involved than they currently are in making decisions about their own health and health care (Care Quality Commission Inpatient Survey, 2020; GP Patient Survey, 2022)
- both individuals and clinicians tend to consistently over-estimate the benefits of treatments and under-estimate the harms (Hoffman, 2017)
- it has the potential to enhance allocative efficiency and reduce unwarranted clinical variation (Mulley et al, 2012)
- it is intrinsic in professional codes of conduct/standards (General Medical Council, 2020; Nursing and Midwifery Council, 2018; Health and Care Professions Council, 2018)
- it is a legal requirement and health professionals now must take “reasonable care to ensure that the patient is aware of any material risks involved in any recommended treatment and of any reasonable alternative or variant treatments”. (Health and Social Care Act 2012, Medical Protection Society, 2015; Montgomery v Lanarkshire Health Board, 2015)

More information about shared decision making can be found on NHS England’s website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/shared-decision-making/>

Key messages



- Decision support tools are designed to:
 - help people take part in decision making
 - provide information on the options
 - help people to think about, clarify and communicate the value of each option to them personally.
- Decision support tools help people make the right decision for them considering their unique circumstances, preferences and values.
- The use of decision support tools is associated with patients being less likely to reconsider health-related decisions further through their healthcare pathway and can lead to fewer patients wanting to proceed to surgical intervention.
- Decision support tools can be used before, during or after a clinical consultation but they do not replace the need for a detailed discussion with a clinician skilled in shared decision making.
- When used by a clinical team skilled in shared decision making, they ensure that patients are at the heart of decision making.
- Decision support tools enhance, rather than replace, the clinical decision making consultation.

Call to action

- To share the decision support tools through your channels to reach the clinical staff and people that would use the decision support tools to support a shared decision making conversation:
www.england.nhs.uk/decision-support-tools/
- Encourage feedback via the online questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/r/hy17Czks0B>

Top three ways to help



What three things can colleagues do to help?

1. Share the message on social media.
2. Share the message via bulletins and newsletters to reach clinicians across all settings and people who have one of the conditions where the decision support tools can support.
3. Encourage clinicians to use the tools and capture feedback by completing the questionnaire.

Resources to use

- Social media graphics – Twitter and LinkedIn
- Copy for social channels
- Copy for bulletins/newsletters



Example social media posts



Example posts for Twitter

.@NHSEngland has published eight decision support tools to support #SharedDecisionMaking conversations between clinician and patient by explaining treatment, care and support options to help the patient consider what matters most to them. #PersonalisedCare
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/decision-support-tools/>

A new [name of decision support tool] decision support tool has been published by @NHSEngland to support #SharedDecisionMaking conversations between clinician and patient by explaining treatment, care and support options to help the patient consider what matters most to them. #PersonalisedCare @Pers_Care
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/decision-support-tools/>



Example social media posts



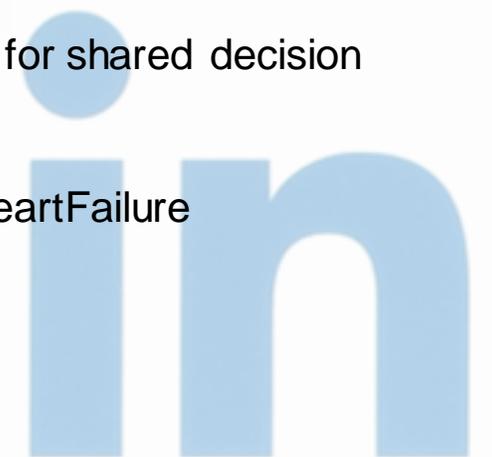
Example posts for LinkedIn

NHS England has published a [suite of eight decision support tools](#) covering varying conditions along with guidance on how to use them and evaluating the impact. NHS England will continue to build on this suite of decision support tools and publish as they become available. To help NHS England in future decision support tools development, please share your feedback by [completing this short questionnaire](#). Feedback closes on 31 December 2022.

Decision support tools, also called patient decision aids support shared decision making by making treatment, care and support options explicit, providing evidence-based information about the associated benefits and risks, and helping patients to consider what matters most to them in relation to the possible outcomes, including doing nothing.

These decision support tools have been developed in accordance with NICE standards framework for shared decision making support tools, including patient decision aids.

#PrimaryCare #GeneralPractice #EyeCare #SharedDecisionMaking #PersonalisedCare #MSK #HeartFailure



Example long copy (c. 250 words)



Decision support tools published

NHS England has published a [suite of eight decision support tools](#) covering varying conditions along with guidance on how to use them and evaluating the impact.

Decision support tools (DSTs), also called patient decision aids support [shared decision making](#) (SDM) by making treatment, care and support options explicit, providing evidence-based information about the associated benefits and risks, and helping patients to consider what matters most to them in relation to the possible outcomes, including doing nothing.

These DSTs have been developed in accordance with [NICE standards framework for shared decision making support tools, including patient decision aids](#). NHS England will continue to build on this suite of DSTs and publish as they become available. To help NHS England in future clinical DST development, please share your feedback by [completing this short questionnaire](#). Feedback closes on 31 December 2022.



Example short copy (c. 100 words)



Decision support tools published

NHS England has published a [suite of eight decision support tools](#) covering varying conditions along with guidance on how to use them and evaluating the impact. These decision support tools have been developed in accordance with [NICE standards framework for shared decision making support tools, including patient decision aids](#). NHS England will continue to build on this suite of decision support tools and publish as they become available. To help NHS England in the development of further decision support tools, please share your feedback by [completing this short questionnaire](#). Feedback closes on 31 December 2022.



Get in touch!



Please do share with NHS England where you have been promoting the decision support tools, who and how many people.

England.pcgdecisionsupporttools@nhs.net