The Medical Technology Group

Improving patient access to medical technology

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

www.mtg.org.uk

A message from the chair
Barbara Harpham

Last year I was so pleased with how successful the MTG had been, and this year I am delighted that we have continued that success. As a group, the MTG has consolidated what we have built over recent years and become a go to group that has the confidence of major players in the NHS, Parliament and the media.

The MTG's highlight of the year is the Medical Technology Awareness Week and in particular, the Parliamentary Reception, with this year's theme *'Future Proofing the NHS: Tackling the challenges of today and tomorrow with medical technology'* which focused on three key themes – surgical waiting times, long term conditions and workforce.

The reception once again attracted a broad range of guests from across the health sector including Royal Colleges, eminent clinicians and specialist parts of NHS England that focus on medical technology. Our members were well represented and gave us an excellent showcase with a diverse range of technology to learn about.

The reception was preceded by a lunch with guest speaker, Noel Gordon, previously chair of NHS Digital, who, under Chatham House rules gave us his views on the challenges faced by the NHS, and how they can be tackled.

As in other years we, have focused our energies on specific pieces of work which have led to meetings with key policy makers in the NHS and parliamentarians.

This year the MTG launched the *'Tackling Regional Variation in Healthcare: Inequalities, Innovation and Integration'* report which formed the basis of an engagement campaign for the gorup with high profile Members of Parliament.

The patient is at the centre of everything the MTG does, and I was delighted to see our meaningful patient involvement programme become a major focus for the Group. I am looking forward to seeing this campaign progress in 2023, highlighting the importance of including the patient voice in the health system.

Medical Technology Awareness Week 2022

The MTG's Medical Technology Awareness Week reception is the Group's flagship annual event. The reception took place on Monday 5th December 2022 on the House of Commons Terrace Pavilion, and was hosted by Mary Glindon, MP for North Tyneside, and Rachael Maskell, Health and Social Care Select Committee Member and MP for York Central.

The theme for Medical Technology Week 2022 was *Futureproofing the NHS: Tackling the challenges of today and tomorrow with medical technology*. This focused on existing and future NHS patient access challenges, with medical technology highlighted as a solution.

The themes for the reception were linked to the Government's commitment to the Levelling Up Agenda, as well as Integrated Care Systems' (ICS) efforts to reduce regional inequalities. Medical technology was highlighted as a key part of the current and future solutions for achieving these goals. Parliamentarians were invited to attend, learn more about how their local ICSs are performing, and discover how they can contribute to the drive for better access to medical technologies for patients.

The three core themes of the reception, were:

- **Surgical Waiting Times** – utilising the latest surgical techniques (e.g. minimally invasive surgery) to deliver high quality outcomes first time, reduce recovery times and bed days, and robotics.
- **Long Term Conditions** – supporting people to self-manage through access to the best medical technology available, for instance in stoma care and diabetes management using digital tools.
- **Workforce Crisis** – how innovation can help reduce current workload (e.g. digital tools to support patient flow), technology that allows treatment to be conducted outside traditional settings, and reduce Hospital Acquired Infections.

Attendees heard keynote speeches from:

- **Simon Bolton**, CEO, NHS Digital
- **Mark Chapman**, Interim Director for Medical Technology and Digitalisation, NICE
- **David Lawson**, Director of the Medical Technology Directorate
- **Dr Vin Diwakar**, Medical Director for Secondary Care and Transformation, NHS England

These four speakers were joined by Barbara as Chair of the MTG, Rachael Maskell MP and Mary Glindon MP as hosts, and our two patient speakers:

- **Dave Bracher**, a spinal cord injury patient
- **Mick Crozier**, a vascular access patient

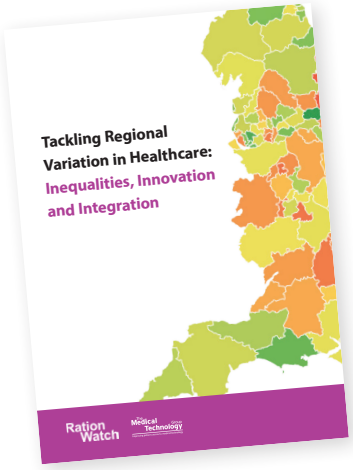
The reception also showcased **21 individual pieces of medical technology and materials** from 12 MTG members.

Lunch

This year's Medical Technology Awareness Week Lunch took place at Osteria Dell' Angolo.

Members heard from Noel Gordon, former Chair, NHS Digital and Healthcare UK. The lunch provided members an opportunity to learn more about the ever-changing NHS landscape, learn from those who have been at the heart of the system, and understand the challenges facing the NHS. It was also an opportunity to discuss the ways in which the NHS promotes patient access to innovative treatments.

The MTG's Ration Watch Campaign



In 2022, the MTG's Ration Watch Campaign focused on regional variation in the number of patient procedures performed. This work compared data on four key clinical areas across each NHS region, looking for consistency of service across a Clinical Commissioning Group.

In September, the Secretariat launched the report for Ration Watch 2022, Tackling Regional Variation in Healthcare: Inequalities, Innovation and Integration.

The report aims to highlight regional disparities in access to treatment; demonstrate the current levels of inequality across the NHS; and draw attention to examples of best practice across NHS England.

The report's conclusions are drawn from NHS England's Referral to Treatment (RTT) data, which the Group mapped from July 2021 to March 2022. This data is presented alongside case studies from across the NHS and a series of recommendations on how the NHS should prioritise the sharing of best practice and the levelling up of healthcare with the move towards ICSs.

The report focuses on the performance of each CCG across their cardiology, gynaecology, trauma and orthopaedic and general surgery services. Using RTT data, the report flags which CCGs have maintained high output over the eight months analysed, which underperformed, and which showed improvement.

Within the conclusion and recommendations, the MTG is requesting that NHS England improve the sharing and promoting of best practice across commissioners and providers. The report also looks at the transition to Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), and the need for ICSs to level their care up to the best performing CCGs within their system, opposed to down to the worst.

As part of the launch, the Secretariat sent the report to Members of Parliament from the best performing and most-improved areas, asking to meet to discuss the report and help raise awareness of the disparities in waiting times across England and to understand and share the best practice in their local CCG.

Following this engagement, the MTG has met/arranged to meet with the following Members of Parliament:

- **Sir George Howarth MP** (Lab, Knowsley)
- **Jim McMahon MP** (Lab, Oldham West and Royton) - Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- **Steve Double MP** (Con, St Austell and Newquay) - Government Whip
- **Andy Carter MP** (Lab, Warrington South)
- **Peter Gibson MP** (Con, Darlington)
- **Andrew Gwynne MP** (Lab, Denton and Reddish) - Shadow Minster for Public Health

Sir George Howarth MP, Jim McMahon MP, Steve Double MP, Peter Gibson MP and Andy Carter MP, have confirmed they are willing to support the campaign by tabling parliamentary questions and helping the MTG engage with their local ICS to understand the best practice taking place.

Richard Bacon MP (Con, South Norfolk) was unable to meet with the Group, but did send correspondence to the Department of Health and Social Care, which has since had a response from the Minister for Secondary Care, **Will Quince MP**.

The MTG has also received positive communication from the following MPs, who have all requested briefing documents:

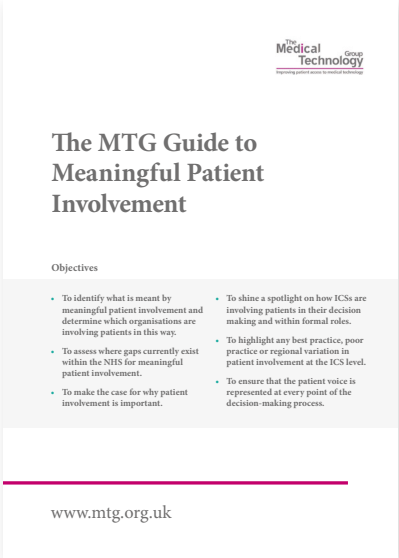
- **George Freeman MP** (Con, Mid Norfolk) – Minister for Science, Research and Innovation
- **Jonathan Reynolds MP** (Lab, Stalybridge and Hyde) – Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy
- **Bill Esterson MP** (Lab, Sefton Central) – Shadow Minister for Business and Industry
- **Angela Rayner MP** (Lab, Ashton-under-Lyne) – Deputy Leader of the Opposition
- **Anne Marie Trevelyan MP** (Con, Berwick-upon-Tweed) – Minister for Indo-Pacific

Meaningful Patient Involvement

In 2022, the MTG introduced a new programme of work looking at what is meant by meaningful patient involvement, and where it is practiced within the NHS and relevant bodies. The MTG formed a working group of its patient group members, which looked to identify what meaningful patient involvement means in practice, and what action needs to be taken to ensure it is achieved across the health system.

The inaugural meeting of the working group took place in May, with the group agreeing to produce the MTG's Guide to Meaningful Patient Involvement, which highlights the gaps within patient involvement today. Meetings continued in August and September, with the group agreeing to include examples of best practice within the gap analysis. The working group also agreed that the report should include recommendations on advertising and recruitment practices for patient roles, and training and mentoring opportunities for patients who sit on committees and boards.

In November, the MTG launched the MTG's Guide to Meaningful Patient Involvement during a Parliamentary roundtable event. The event was hosted by Sir George Howarth MP, with members of the Patient Involvement Working Group, multiple parliamentarians and senior figures from the MHRA, CQC and NHS Providers coming together to discuss the MTG's recommendations. The parliamentarians agreed to co-author a joint letter which has been sent to the Minister responsible for patient safety and involvement, requesting a meeting to discuss patient involvement and how to take forward and implement the report's recommendations.



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The MTG Guide to Meaningful Patient Involvement

Objectives

- To identify what is meant by meaningful patient involvement and determine which organisations are involving patients in this way.
- To assess where gaps currently exist within the NHS for meaningful patient involvement.
- To make the case for why patient involvement is important.
- To shine a spotlight on how ICSs are involving patients in their decision making and within formal roles.
- To highlight any best practice, poor practice or regional variation in patient involvement at the ICS level.
- To ensure that the patient voice is represented at every point of the decision-making process.

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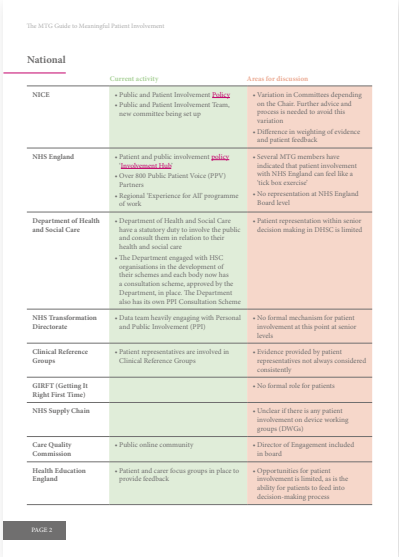
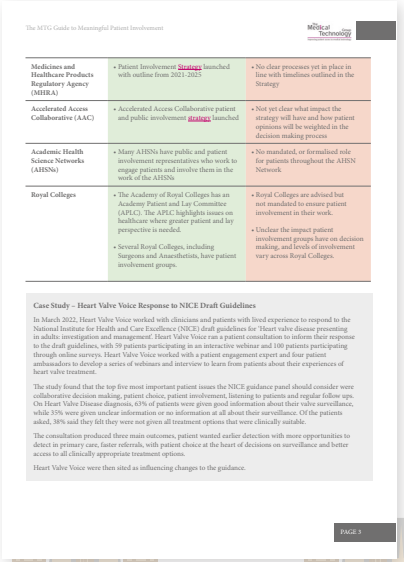


The MTG Guide to Meaningful Patient Involvement

National

	Current activity	Areas for discussion
NICE	• Public and Patient Involvement Policy • Public and Patient Involvement Team, new committee being set up	• Variation in Committees depending on the Chair. Further advice and process is needed to avoid this variation • Difference in weighting of evidence and patient feedback
NHS England	• Patient and public involvement policy 'Involvement Hub' • Over 800 Public Patient Voice (PPV) Partners • Regional 'Experience for All' programme of work	• Several MTG members have indicated that patient involvement with NHS England can feel like a 'tick box exercise' • No representation at NHS England Board level
Department of Health and Social Care	• Department of Health and Social Care have a statutory duty to involve the public and consult them in relation to their health and social care • The Department engaged with HSC organisations in the development of their schemes and each body now has a consultation scheme, approved by the Department, in place. The Department also has its own PPI Consultation Scheme	• Patient representation within senior decision making in DHSC is limited
NHS Transformation Directorate	• Data team heavily engaging with Personal and Public Involvement (PPI)	• No formal mechanism for patient involvement at this point at senior levels
Clinical Reference Groups	• Patient representatives are involved in Clinical Reference Groups	• Evidence provided by patient representatives not always considered consistently
GIRFT (Getting It Right First Time)		• No formal role for patients
NHS Supply Chain		• Unclear if there is any patient involvement on device working groups (DWGs)
Care Quality Commission	• Public online community	• Director of Engagement included in board
Health Education England	• Patient and carer focus groups in place to provide feedback	• Opportunities for patient involvement is limited, as is the ability for patients to feed into decision-making process

PAGE 2



The MTG Guide to Meaningful Patient Involvement

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	• Patient Involvement Strategy launched with outline from 2021-2023	• No clear processes yet in place in line with timelines outlined in the Strategy
Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC)	• Accelerated Access Collaborative patient and public involvement strategy launched	• Not yet clear what impact the strategy will have and how patient opinions will be weighted in the decision making process
Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs)	• Many AHSNs have public and patient involvement representatives who work to engage patients and involve them in the work of the AHSNs	• No mandated, or formalised role for patients throughout the AHSN Network
Royal Colleges	• The Academy of Royal Colleges has an Academy Patient and Lay Committee (APLC). The APLC highlights issues on healthcare where greater patient and lay perspective is needed. • Several Royal Colleges, including Surgeons and Anaesthetists, have patient involvement groups.	• Royal Colleges are advised but not mandated to ensure patient involvement in their work. • Unclear the impact patient involvement groups have on decision making, and levels of involvement vary across Royal Colleges.

Case Study - Heart Valve Voice Response to NICE Draft Guidelines

In March 2022, Heart Valve Voice worked with clinicians and patients with lived experience to respond to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) draft guidelines for 'Heart valve disease presenting in adults: investigation and management'. Heart Valve Voice ran a patient consultation to inform their response to the draft guidelines, with 59 patients participating in an interactive webinar and 180 patients participating through online surveys. Heart Valve Voice worked with a patient engagement expert and four patient ambassadors to develop a series of webinars and interview to learn from patients about their experiences of heart valve treatment.

The study found that the top five most important patient issues the NICE guidance panel should consider were collaborative decision making, patient choice, patient involvement, listening to patients and regular follow ups. On Heart Valve Disease diagnosis, 63% of patients were given good information about their valve surveillance, while 35% were given unclear information or no information at all about their surveillance. Of the patients asked, 38% said they felt they were not given all treatment options that were clinically suitable.

The consultation produced three main outcomes, patient wanted earlier detection with more opportunities to detect in primary care, faster referrals, with patient choice at the heart of decisions on surveillance and better access to all clinically appropriate treatment options.

Heart Valve Voice were then sited as influencing changes to the guidance.

PAGE 3

Access Accelerator Report

Following the launch of the MTG's Access Accelerator Report in 2021, the MTG finalised an updated Access Accelerator ranking system, using a traffic light system to track whether any progress has been made towards each of the report's 11 recommendations since the original report was launched in 2021.

The MTG will be meeting with Matt Whitty, Chief Executive of NHS England's Accelerated Access Collaborative in 2023 to discuss this in more detail.

Access Accelerator Scorecard: One Year On

In 2021 the MTG launched the Access Accelerator, with a focus on ensuring patient access to innovative medical technology. The Access Accelerator had the objective of creating a model for a single pathway that could support the rapid and broad adoption of medical technology. The report identified specific activity that the NHS should undertake to support this, and how existing organisations can assess and promote the widespread uptake of new and existing technologies at pace and scale.

Since 2021 there has been welcome progress by the NHS and Government to improve patient access to innovative medical technology. Progress has been made in providing clarity for industry regarding how to bring innovative medical technology to the NHS, and an acknowledgement of the need to not pick 'system winners' and rather focus on improving broader access to innovative medical technologies. However, some of the recommendations need further assessment and focus.

The MTG has produced this scorecard, rating the recommendations' progress in red, amber and green, to track progress from the NHS and Government. The MTG welcomes what has been addressed, and calls for further activity for those that are not yet realised.

Traffic light system

Recommendation	Progress	Description
Single front door		Progress has been made in this area, with the Accelerated Access Collaborative tackling some of the previous issues around a lack of clarity of where industry should go with innovative technology. The Accelerated Access Collaborative is providing a central point of entry for industry when looking to bring innovative technology to the NHS and patients.
Single model		There is still a lack of understanding from industry regarding the process for innovative technology uptake. It is clearer that the AAC is a central point for information, however more needs to be done to spread awareness and expectation around timelines and likely outcomes ad the process that will be required.
Comprehensive system approach		The MTG is aware that the AAC is working with partners to take on a more system based approach. However, to date, uptake of innovative technology is limited to specific technologies through specific programmes which means the patient impact is limited. The MTG welcomes a conversation with the AAC regarding their strategy in this area moving forwards.

Elective backlog

As part of the campaign to highlight the role of medical technology in the elective restart and position it as a solution to making the most of care pathways and NHS capacity, the MTG hosted a series of themed webinars during 2021.

During 2022, the MTG has been investigating the economic and social implications of long waiting lists, identifying the real impact on patients, and why this matters.

In June, the MTG produced a briefing document which has been used for outreach to key stakeholders. This document includes case studies from MTG members detailing where innovative technology is being used to speed up patient treatment and reduce the backlog effectively.

These case studies include examples of where innovative treatment has:

- Effectively returned a patient to work
- Reduced the burden on an unpaid carer
- Reduced the strain on NHS workforce through reductions in appointments, interim treatment or medication

In October, the MTG launched the NHS Backlog Briefing with a parliamentary engagement programme. The report was circulated with health interested parliamentarians from the House of Commons and House of Lords to raise awareness of the ongoing NHS backlog, and effective solutions to the problem.

Following the launch, the Secretariat has met with Baroness Jolly, Lord Bethell and Sir George Howarth MP. The parliamentarians agreed to table parliamentary questions to raise awareness of the patient voice in NHS decision making process.

Meetings and Highlights

Professor Tim Briggs CBE

On January 18th, the MTG met with the Chair of Getting It Right First Time and National Director of Clinical Improvement for NHS England, Professor Tim Briggs CBE. The meeting focused on Day Case Surgery, with Professor Briggs giving an insight into GIRFT's High Volume Low Complexity (HVLC) programme.

On January 20th 2023, the Group met with Professor Briggs for a second time to discuss how GIRFT supports the development of surgical hubs, the uptake of proven medical devices and the culture in the NHS.

Quarterly Meetings with NICE

In 2022, the MTG secured quarterly meetings with NICE, the first of these meetings was in February, when the group met with the Chair of NICE, Sharmila Nebhrajani OBE, and new Chief Executive, Dr Sam Roberts, as part of the Access Accelerator outreach.

The second meeting took place virtually on Friday 10th June. As was agreed in the first meeting, alongside Sam Roberts and Sharmila Nebhrajani, a Patient and Public Involvement team representative and Technology Assessment Criteria representative were present from NICE.

The third meeting between the MTG and NICE took place in November. During this meeting, the MTG met with Interim Director of Medical Technology and Digital Evaluation, Mark Chapman, and Victoria Thomas, Head of Public Involvement.

Dr Henrietta Hughes, Patient Safety Commissioner

In November, the MTG met with Dr Henrietta Hughes, the newly appointed independent Patient Safety Commissioner within the Department for Health and Social Care.

Discussion focused on the role and priorities of the Patient Safety Commissioner and how Dr Hughes plans on supporting the change and monitoring of patient safety. In the meeting, Dr Hughes asked the MTG how its industry members support the reporting of safety incidents, and committed to working with the group moving forwards.

Quarterly Meetings with the Office for Life Sciences and Medical Technology Directorate

Following the release of the MTG's 'MedTech the Solution' Manifesto at MedTech Week 2021, the group reached out to key policymakers requesting a meeting to discuss the manifesto's recommendations.

In June, Rosalind Campion, Director of the Office for Life Sciences within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Department of Business, Energy and the Industrial Strategy (BEIS) met with the MTG to discuss the manifesto and the group's wider aims. In the meeting, Rosalind Campion agreed to meet the group quarterly.

The next meeting between the MTG and the Office for Life Sciences (OLS) took place in November. In this meeting, the MTG and OLS were joined by the Medical Technology Directorate, with attendees including Rosalind Campion (OLS), Sara Felix, Deputy Director of the Strategy, Policy (MTD) and David Lawson, the new Director of the Medical Technology in the Department for Health and Social Care.

During the meeting, the MTG, OLS and MTD discussed the shape of the system, the upcoming MedTech Strategy, evaluation of MedTech, procurement and how the attending organisations define innovation.

Meeting with Dame Angela Pedder

In March, the MTG held a meeting on Integrated Care Systems with Dame Angela Pedder at Osteria Dell' Angolo.

Dame Angela has over 40 years of experience in healthcare, and was Chief Executive of the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust from 1996 to 2016.

The meeting was an opportunity for members to find out how to engage with ICSs and the impact they will have on patients. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would be interested in seeing a summary of the discussion, please contact the Secretariat.

Media achievements

Media

20+

Over 20 items of high profile items of specialist, regional, and online coverage including the Health Service Journal, The Clinical Services Journal, Health Business, and Politics.co.uk.

In 2022, in a time of ongoing crisis for the NHS we have sought to position the MTG as a constructive thought leader. We have used highly influential pieces to reiterate our key messages on how timely and widespread access to medical technology can help the health service's fundamental challenges.

The latest Ration Watch report generated two features and an opinion article, including a piece in the HSJ that called on health leaders to do more to share best practice across the health service.

Website

8,100+
unique visitors

34%

2020: 6,073
2021: 8,862
2022: 8,166

16,000
page views

The MTG site continues to perform well on search engines, maintaining its position on the first page of Google search results for the search term 'medical technology'.

Regular content, including blog posts, link building, and Search Engine Optimisation, has supported this position. We are also starting to develop the MTG blog as a place where leading healthcare professionals can be interviewed about the future of the NHS. We have so far featured Professor Nora Colton, following her piece in the Sunday Times, as well Professor Grant Stewart from Cambridge University Hospitals.

Social Media

21,000+
Organic and sponsored LinkedIn impressions

121 LinkedIn followers (up 67 since 2021)

31,000+
Twitter impressions

1,100+
Total impressions from videos on MTG TV

Our YouTube channel (up 31% on 2021)

Strategic Aims

The MTG's Purpose: to support and increase patient access to medical technology

The MTG's Goals for 2023

1. **To effectively demonstrate how wider, timely patient access to medical technology helps meet government and NHS objectives, ensure an effective plan to reduce waiting times and treat patients quickly:**
   a. Raise the profile of medical technology as a solution for the backlog
   b. Highlight variation in patient access to treatments across the country and promote the importance of patient choice
   c. Demonstrate the cost of not treating patients and the wider societal impact

2. **To challenge NHS Practice and Government policy which limits patient access to medical technology:**
   a. Ensure patients are involved at the earliest appropriate time regarding decisions which impact access to medical technology
   b. Mandate/duty to engage patient advocacy groups and patients in appropriate discussions on medical technology
   c. Ensure all ICSs include meaningful patient representation on ICS Board
   d. Appropriate accountability for ICS Boards to ensure patient access and patient representation

3. **To establish the Medical Technology Group as a high-profile campaigning organisation at Westminster, within NHS and in the media:**
   a. Raise the profile of the MTG as a thought leader
   b. Make the case for patient involvement within ICS decision making structures and the importance of timely access to medical technology
   c. Maintain an engaged and active membership within the MTG through clear and concise secretariat administration and communication

The MTG's Priority Areas of Focus for 2023:

1. The elective backlog and the prioritisation of patient access
2. Reducing variation in access
3. Meaningful patient involvement

Looking Forwards

2023

First All Member Meetings of 2023

The MTG met with Professor Tim Briggs CBE, Chair of Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) and National Director for Clinical Improvement and Elective Recovery on **Friday 20th January**. The meeting provided an opportunity for the MTG to hear how GIRFT is helping to address the backlog of care in the NHS and where the MTG can support GIRFT's work moving forwards, as well as plans in his new role as NHS England's National Director for Clinical Improvement and Elective Recovery.

On **Wednesday 15th February**, the MTG will be meeting with Matt Whitty, Chief Executive of NHS England's Access Accelerator Collaborative (AAC). The meeting will provide the MTG with an opportunity to discuss the work of the AAC and hear more about their priorities for 2023. The Group will also have the opportunity to discuss the MTG's Access Accelerator Traffic Light review, which assessed the progress made to implement the recommendations in the MTG's 2021 Access Accelerator report.

On **Friday 3rd March**, the MTG will meet with the Office for Life Sciences and the Medical Technology Directorate for the first of the quarterly catch ups agreed upon in 2022. The meeting will provide the MTG the opportunity to discuss the publication of the MedTech Strategy, alongside the development of the Office for Life Sciences as champion in research, innovation and the use of technology to transform health and care service.

If you would like to contribute to these meetings, please email the Group's Secretariat at **mtg@healthcommsconsulting.co.uk**.

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