



Green Surgery Report Project: Equality Impact Assessment

Project Details

Policy, procedure, project, programme of work, decision or activity title	Green Surgery: A Report and Recommendations for Net Zero Surgical Care
Responsibility	UKHACC in partnership with Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
Is this a new or previously approved activity?	New
Date of last assessment or review (if known)	Not applicable
How long will it be in operation?	24 months from January 2021-December 2023
Date of this assessment	15 August 2023
Name of assessor	Shashank Kumar
Job title and role of assessor	Green Surgery Project Manager

Further Information

Who is responsible for the activity being assessed?	Green Surgery Oversight Committee UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (lead) Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (lead) Brighton and Sussex Medical School (lead) Association of Anaesthetists Association of Perioperative Practice Association of Surgeons in Training British Association of Paediatric Surgeons Centre for Perioperative Care Greener NHS Infection Prevention Society Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Royal College of Nursing Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow Royal College of Surgeons of Canada Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Royal College of Surgeons of England
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	<p>Royal College of Surgeons of England, Dental Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons The American College of Surgeons</p>
<p>Which objectives of the UKHACC commitments will this project contribute to meeting?</p>	<p>Publish plan for organisations to get to net zero Embed sustainability in governance, structure, and culture Develop a plan for sustainability in your specialist area Educate members on the links between climate change and health</p>
<p>What are the purpose, aims / objectives, and intended outcomes of this activity?</p>	<p>The scope of the project is to provide the health system with the tools required to change the impact of surgical care pathways by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing and reporting on available evidence of surgical care and associated departments, identifying carbon hotspots in surgery, knowledge and infrastructure gaps, opportunities and barriers for change 2. Producing a report and recommendations to enable a transition towards net zero surgery 3. Disseminating the report, recommendations and supporting material to key stakeholders and surgical teams across the UK 4. Developing a guide for implementation of the report recommendations, made up of commitments from stakeholders
<p>Who is expected to benefit from this activity?</p>	<p>The UK public and future generations</p> <p>Surgical care practitioners and administrators, and patients</p>
<p>Which groups have been consulted on this activity and what were their views?</p>	<p>Representatives of surgical care professional organisations (clinical and administrative) contributed to defining the overall aims and structure of the Report; they also reviewed multiple drafts, and provided feedback and suggestions for improvement</p> <p>Research experts helped consolidate the evidence based that has been collated and presented in the Report</p> <p>Representatives of patient groups have had the opportunity to participate in the project from planning to execution stage, emphasising how the Report can ensure patient awareness of and involvement in climate change mitigation actions within the healthcare sector</p>

Impact on Different Groups of People

Equality Target Group	Impact (Positive, Negative, Neutral)	Evidence
Age (consider different age groups)	Positive	<p>Report aims to facilitate climate change mitigation, which will secure well-being and livelihood of young people and future generations</p> <p>Report advocates for changes and improvements to surgical care pathways that can benefit individuals of all ages</p>
Socio-economically excluded / deprived groups (intersection of gender, class, and race)	Positive	<p>Report acknowledges that socio-economically disadvantaged communities contribute to climate change the least, but are harmed by it the most</p> <p>Report advocates for public health policies that prevent illness and promote health and well-being of people disadvantaged by intersecting systems of socio-economic exclusion / deprivation</p> <p>Report promotes clinical and administrative practices that can reduce healthcare costs, which can be reinvested into programmes to enhance health of socio-economically disadvantaged people and communities</p> <p>Report suggests avenues for efficient delivery of surgical care services which can shorten the duration of treatment, which will be beneficial for people and communities disadvantaged by intersecting systems of socio-economic exclusion / deprivation</p>
Disability (consider different types of disability, visible and invisible)	Positive	<p>Although not discussed explicitly, the Report recommends practices that can improve provision of surgical services for people with disabilities</p> <p>Report recommends practices that can promote saving and reinvestment of public finances into healthcare and social services that benefit people with disabilities</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	<p>Although issues of maternal health not addressed explicitly, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have actively contributed to its contents and recommendations; this can indirectly support improvements to healthcare and social services for women and mothers</p>

Marriage or civil partnership; religion or belief; sexual orientation; community background (Northern Ireland)	Neutral	The Report does not address concerns of these equality-seeking groups; however, it seeks to promote social changes that can contribute to the creation of a just and equitable society
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Promoting Equality

<p>How this activity promotes equality, including how it benefits the equality target groups identified above. What evidence is there to support this? Could it do more?</p>	<p>This Report outlines ideas and strategies to improve the provision of surgical care within the NHS without adverse impacts on the environment. This involves making changes to clinical practices, the organisation of the health system, and patterns of resource use, within the broader context of a publicly funded health system that caters to all people living in the UK. Implementation of its recommendations have considerable potential to ensure health equity within the UK context.</p> <p>The Report mainly highlights avenues to change surgical practice to achieve carbon and cost savings while ensuring efficient and high quality surgical care. It does not explicitly discuss how these interventions can enhance socio-economic and health equity in Britain.</p> <p>It is primarily a technical Report highlighting evidence about why these changes need to be made, and how this can be done. Supplementary Reports or writing can build on it to highlight the links to issues of socio-economic and health inequities in the UK.</p>
<p>Any potential negative impacts?</p>	<p>There are two potential negative impacts of the Report for equality-seeking groups.</p> <p>(1) Delays in implementing Report recommendations can result in situations that increase healthcare (and socio-economic) risks to deprived populations. To address this, efforts will be undertaken to advocate for enacting change.</p> <p>(2) Implementing Report recommendations may cause unanticipated harm to healthcare practitioners or patients. If such situations arise, revisions and clarifications will be issued, along with alternative practices that can be pursued. Where appropriate, action will be taken to make amends for harm that is clearly linked to the Report's contents.</p>

Monitoring and Evaluating Effectiveness

How and how often will the impact on protected groups be monitored and evaluated and by whom?

Projects initiated to implement Report recommendations will be encouraged to carry out equality assessments, and consider how to actively take steps to promote greater socio-economic equality through climate change mitigation actions.