



Topic Exploration Report

Topic explorations are designed to provide a high-level briefing on new topics submitted for consideration by Health Technology Wales. The main objectives of this report are to:

1. Determine the quantity and quality of evidence available for a technology of interest.
2. Identify any gaps in the evidence/ongoing evidence collection.
3. Inform decisions on topics that warrant fuller assessment by Health Technology Wales.

Topic:	Ultraling picture archiving and communications system (PACS) in cardiology
Topic exploration report number:	TER088

Introduction and aims

Ultraling is a cloud based picture archiving and communications system (PACS). It allows patient reports and medical imaging to be stored securely offsite where they can be accessed remotely. This could be used as an alternative to storing patient reports and medical imaging using paper based systems or onsite computer hardware. Health Technology Wales researchers searched for evidence on the use of the Ultraling PACS with a focus on its use in a cardiology setting.

Summary of findings

Ultraling is a digital health technology and was determined to be a Tier 1 technology according to the NICE Evidence Standards Framework for Digital Health Technologies. This indicates that Ultraling has potential system benefits but no measurable effect on patient outcomes. Ultraling was also determined to be 'high risk' because of the high financial or organisational impact and the seriousness of the consequences if Ultraling failed to perform as described. This high risk status increases the standard of evidence required within the framework ('best practice' evidence standards must be met rather than the minimum standards).

No published evidence was identified on the use of the Ultraling PACS system. However, there are testimonials on the Ultraling website from clinicians that have used the system suggesting that it has credibility with UK health and social care professionals and that its users have found it to be useful and successful.

No published cost-effectiveness evidence was identified. The cost of the Ultraling system is not stated on the website but it is claimed to be cost-effective because of the potential to reduce operational costs associated with IT maintenance and upgrades as well as reducing the amount of time taken to view and update records.

Areas of uncertainty

Due to the lack of evidence, there is uncertainty around the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the technology and the benefits that it could offer in comparison to current practice.

Conclusions

The current evidence base for the Ultralinq system was not considered sufficient for a full appraisal to be conducted.

Brief literature search results

Resource	Results
HTA organisations	
Healthcare Improvement Scotland:	We did not identify any relevant guidance from this source
Health Technology Assessment Group	We did not identify any relevant guidance from this source
Health Information and Quality Authority	We did not identify any relevant guidance from this source
UK guidelines and guidance	
SIGN	We did not identify any relevant guidance from this source
NICE	We did not identify any relevant guidance from this source
Secondary literature and economic evaluations	
ECRI	We did not identify any relevant evidence from this source
Cochrane library	We did not identify any relevant evidence from this source
Medline	We did not identify any relevant evidence from this source
Primary studies	
Medline	We did not identify any relevant evidence from this source
Cochrane library	We did not identify any relevant evidence from this source

Date of search:	<i>June 2019</i>
Concepts used:	Ultrasound, picture archiving and communications system, PACS