
POSTER ABSTRACT**Streamlining DTAC Compliance in Primary Care: A Structured Framework
for Digital Health Adoption**

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Background: The NHS Digital Technology Assessment Criteria (DTAC) framework, introduced in 2021, provides a standardised approach for evaluating digital health technologies entering the NHS. Despite its wide recognition, commercial developers often struggle with navigating DTAC's complex 340-question assessment, due to limited guidance on practical, strategic, and operational approaches. This presents a barrier to innovation, as developers may face delays, increased costs, and misalignment with NHS clinical and technical expectations. A structured approach to DTAC could therefore accelerate safe and effective adoption of digital health technologies, supporting both innovation and quality standards.

This study addresses this gap by developing a structured framework that maps specific strategic activities to DTAC assessment criteria, offering commercial developers clear, actionable steps at each stage of the assessment process.

Approach: We conducted a systematic review of DTAC documentation and supplemented this with structured consultations services and stakeholders. These stakeholders represent both the regulatory assessment perspective and the commercial development experience, ensuring the framework addresses real-world implementation challenges. Insights from these consultations were used to refine operational pathways and ensure alignment with the practical experiences of commercial partners navigating the DTAC assessment process.

Results: The resulting framework identifies critical compliance requirements across all DTAC domains, including structured pathways for cybersecurity, mandatory certification frameworks, and interoperability standards such as FHIR R4 (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources). The framework provides guidance on effective navigation through early-phase gap analysis, comprehensive documentation preparation, and proactive engagement with NHS Digital assessors. By mapping strategic activities to specific DTAC criteria, the framework reduces ambiguity and provides developers with a clear roadmap from initial assessment through to approval.

Implications: By providing a practical, stepwise guide, this framework has the potential to accelerate the adoption of innovative digital health technologies within the NHS, reduce knowledge gaps between developers and assessors, and maintain rigorous clinical, technical, and regulatory standards. While developed specifically for the NHS DTAC framework, the structured approach offers transferable principles for health systems internationally that are developing or refining digital health assessment processes. The methodology demonstrates how systematic guidance can bridge regulatory requirements with practical implementation, particularly relevant for health systems balancing innovation acceleration with patient safety and quality assurance.