



# Determining and evaluating the Quality of Health Apps

Supporting the digital patient

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# Are health apps and mobile healthcare the future?

With over 366,000 health & fitness related apps currently on app stores and 5 MILLION downloads per day it is difficult to deny the



Weight Loss Apps  
**50 MILLION**  
Downloads



Exercise Apps  
**26.5 MILLION**  
Downloads



Women's Health Apps  
**10.5 MILLION**  
Downloads



Stress/Meditation Apps  
**8 MILLION**  
Downloads



Pregnancy Apps  
**7.5 MILLION**  
Downloads



Tools/Instruments Apps  
**26.5 MILLION**  
Downloads

Professionals are seeing the  
opportunity with health apps  
too



**80%**

Of  
professionals  
are using  
smartphones &  
medical apps



**40%**

Believe health  
technologies can  
reduce the number  
of visits to  
doctor offices



**93%**

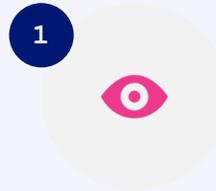
Believe that  
these apps can  
improve  
patients' health



**NICE**

Published:  
'Behaviour  
change: digital  
and mobile  
health  
interventions'

# What are the main barriers to using digital health apps?



## Awareness

Apps are not yet part of the day-to-day management of health and care related conditions.



## Accessibility

Finding and matching Apps to support your needs or those of your service users is very difficult.



## Trust

The lack of a suitable quality indicator inhibits the embracing of Apps by end users and professionals in health and care space.



## Governance

The lack of clarity around the regulatory landscape and the appropriate governance foundations delivers organisational uncertainty.

## Mental Health

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Insomnia                      | Suicide Prevention              |
| Stress and Anxiety            | Bullying                        |
| Eating Disorders              | Schizophrenia                   |
| Bipolar                       | Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder   |
| Cognitive Behavioural Therapy | Borderline Personality Disorder |
| Depression                    | Addiction                       |
| Phobias                       | Panic Attack                    |
| Self Harm Prevention          |                                 |

The Health of Mental Health Apps

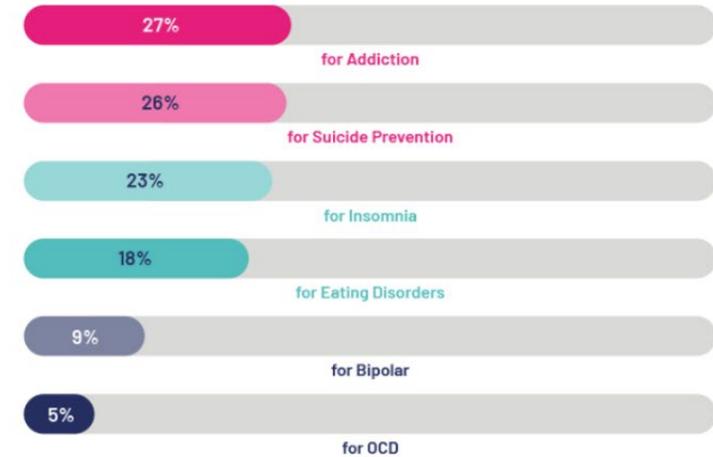
ONLY

29.6%

of mental health apps reviewed meet our quality thresholds



The Health of Mental Health Apps



meet our quality thresholds



It all starts with tr

# The Regulatory Puzzle

What Applies to what?

The Regulatory landscape can be very confusing for Digital Health providers as 'old' regulations and standards are being 'adapted' to meet the very different scenarios that these solutions throw up. Healthcare Regulators globally are wrestling with how to provide a suitable regulatory regime for these innovative products and services.

## Data & Privacy

In the EU, Apps are now largely governed by GDPR Regulations. However emerging standards around the additional requirements to support System Interoperability will undoubtedly add more layers on top of the base GDPR position. Key areas of focus will be the 'model of consent' and authentication solutions.

## Clinical Assurance

This is an area that is packed with regulations, standards and policy requirements depending on the jurisdiction in question. Key regulations include, Medical Device Regulations (with major changes coming into force shortly), CQC Registration, Clinical Safety standards, and requirements around evidence of



## Security

This area focuses on compliance with OWASP best practice guidelines for Apps and Web based solutions.

Whilst existing accreditation regimes such as Cyber Essentials and ISO27001 are relevant, the need to demonstrate 'security by design' and suitable vulnerability testing is also becoming key.

This is currently the area that is least impacted by Regulation. There are some standards around usability and accessibility, but true User Experience metrics or KPIs are hard to come by, with the primary user feedback mechanisms highly prone to

# The ORCHA Baseline Review Process

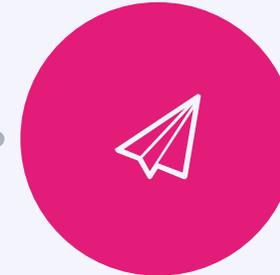
A revolutionary approach to technology assessment

## Auto Filtering

We filter out apps not available in relevant languages and apps that haven't been updated for over 18 months. We auto-categorise those remaining Apps into over 250 condition and category areas.

## Developer Checks

We notify developers of our review findings ahead of publication and allow them 10 days to challenge any area of the review.



## Weekly Monitoring

We monitor all of the apps in this space on a weekly basis to identify new apps, apps that have new releases and apps that have become out of date.

## 350 Point Evaluation PLUS

Our reviewers analyse each app through a 350+ point evaluation which assesses an app's compliance with relevant standards, regulations and best practice.

## Publication & Further Monitoring

Following the developer check period, the review is published on all relevant platforms and we start to gather further information for our 'Advanced Review' phase.

	GGZ/Mind	N!P	Israel MoH	NHS DTAC	ISO 82304-2	Health Navigator
Enhanced Evidence Analysis					✓	✓
Commercial and Financial						
Interoperability		✓		✓		
Clinical Safety				✓	✓	✓
Technical Stability			✓	✓	✓	
Security		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enhanced Data Analysis			✓			
User Experience	✓	✓				
Clinical Assessment		✓	✓			
<b>ORCHA Baseline Assessment</b>						
Clinical Assurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Usability & Accessibility	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Data & Privacy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>ORCHA Rapid Assessment</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Tell people  
which products  
are good





Digital Health Libraries  
and recommending the  
best!



# Procure

London Procurement Partnership (LPP) partnered with ORCHA in September 2019 to create the first Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), which brought together procurement regulations and quality reviews of digital health solutions which could be procured with confidence.

Since launching the DPS we have grown the offering to cover all areas of clinical or health need.

Currently within the DPS we have over 1,000 products and can add hundreds of new products to this environment every month.

DIGITAL HEALTH. UNLOCKED.

## Empowering patients

### Through the use of Health and Social Care Apps

NHS London Procurement Partnership (NHS LPP) are supporting the NHS Long Term Plan through the delivery of our **NHS LPP Health & Social Care Apps Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS)**, enabling patients to have a greater role in their care journey and wellbeing.

The **NHS LPP Health and Social Care Apps DPS** provides the public sector with a way to compliantly procure condition-specific apps to meet health and social care needs; supporting patients, clinicians and non-clinical staff.

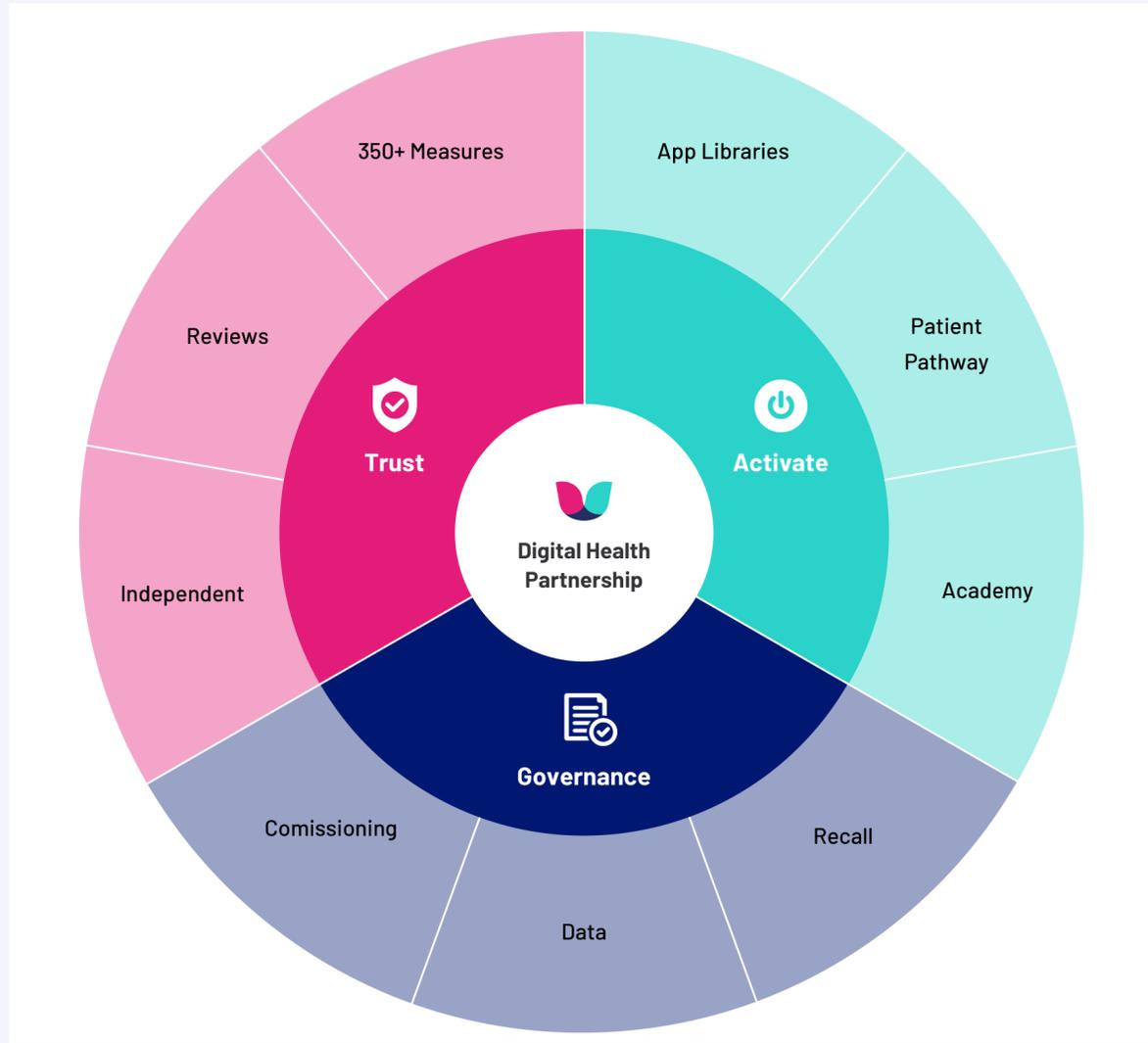
The adoption of apps has already been proven to reduce GP visits, prevent costly trips to A&E, lower usage of prescription drugs and to help close the population health inequalities, delivering both direct and indirect savings and benefits.

Further categories will be added to the **DPS** soon and a list of these can be found in **LPP Sourcing**.



All suppliers of apps that apply to join the DPS will undergo an assessment by the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Apps (ORCHA) and this will inform the selection decision made by NHS LPP.





## To truly support the digital patient we must:

- **Build trust in digital health**
- **Activate trusted partners**
- **Enable strong governance and risk management**





NOW IS THE TIME

Searching for, finding and recommending digital health apps since COVID-19

**180%** Sessions  
180.1% increase

**66%** Pageviews  
66.6% increase

**6500%** Recommendations  
6500% increase

**182%** Downloads  
182.5% increase



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