

Dear Editor,

Adequate spending on obesity can only follow a reconsideration of our appraisal of interventions

(Formerly titled: 'Investment in policy innovation to address obesity requires better economic modelling of the lifetime impact of interventions')

Thank you for the invitation to revise and resubmit our article. We were pleased to read that the committee felt that the topic of obesity policy improvements through better intervention appraisal is important and of interest to your readers. In response to the in-depth feedback we received, we have re-aligned our article to focus on the debate around balancing existing valued and established systems such as NICE, with the limitations caused by viewing obesity interventions and spending in isolation. We have also increased the emphasis on the political drivers for persistent imbalances in therapy vs. prevention policy use within overall obesity strategy.

We highlight the need to better support decision-makers by prioritising health economic modelling which can level the playing field for spending on short-term, therapy-focused interventions, and long-term and prevention policies. We trust that we now address the questions posed in your feedback: "What insights do we forego when we model individual interventions in isolation? Can we effectively compare how weight management drugs will influence outcomes versus population-level alternatives? How can we identify the optimal combination of interventions to offer within the healthcare system (and beyond) to attain maximal population health?"

Further changes we have made include increased prominence on the international context and the provision of additional examples in and beyond the UK. We specifically present the counter-arguments against our views, which cover the risks of changing NICE's mandate, and the feasibility of ever being able to adequately model the complex condition that is obesity.

We have a strong co-authorship group providing clinical, public health and academic insight – including from those providing obesity interventions frontline and from those with leading international expertise in health economic modelling in this area. Our article reflects the issues facing those in need of long-term resources for support with issues of obesity, highlighted as a priority by our public contributor co-author.

We confirm that the material is original writing, it has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under your consideration. All authors have seen and approved the final version of the submission. We look forward to hearing further from you.

Kind regards,

Dr Joanna McLaughlin, on behalf of all authors.