

# HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (HTA) ON TUMOUR PROFILING TESTS FOR BREAST CANCER

**In Ireland, approximately 1,800 cases of hormone receptor-positive, and HER2-negative, early stage breast cancer are diagnosed each year, making it the most common form of breast cancer.**

For early stage breast cancer, surgery to remove the tumour is usually the first treatment and other treatments, such as chemotherapy, may follow. For patients with a particular type of breast cancer, the decision to use chemotherapy can be informed by gene expression profiling (GEP) tests.

GEP tests aim to estimate the chance of the disease returning after surgery and of chemotherapy being effective in stopping it from returning. Currently, the HSE covers the cost of one GEP test called Oncotype DX®.



**HIQA REVIEWED THE EVIDENCE FOR ALL THE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE TESTS FOR THIS GROUP OF PATIENTS TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE HSE ON ALTERNATIVES TO ONCOTYPE DX®.**



For people with cancer that had spread to their lymph nodes, the test with the strongest evidence was Oncotype DX®. For people with cancer that had not spread to their lymph nodes there were more limited data to differentiate between the tests; however, the available evidence supported the continued use of Oncotype DX®.

Decision-making on which GEP tests to provide within the public healthcare system should consider differences in factors such as: patient and cancer characteristics, test costs, and practicality of their use in Ireland.

