

# CCT TASK GROUP FOR BODY TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS



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## Why?

The Covid-19 crisis (and previous virus outbreaks) has brought into the spotlight how unreliable body temperature measurement can be in health services and more generally around the world. In addition, poor body temperature measurements are suspected of fuelling antibiotic resistance and increasing avoidable deaths and therefore the problem has to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The reasons why this issue has arisen are complex but are thought to have their origins in the replacement of mercury-in-glass clinical thermometers, which were well understood with low uncertainties, by a range of different thermometer modalities and body temperature measurement sites.

## Purpose

The purpose of the task group is to establish reliable clinical thermometry on a global basis. Its initial focus will be infra-red approaches; tympanic and skin (e.g. forehead/thermal imaging). One of the main objectives of the group is to collect and consolidate current best practice and standards for body temperature measurement. This information will be used to develop definitive guidance for body temperature measurement, including a statement of likely uncertainties and the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods.

The task group plans to collaborate with the appropriate standardisation bodies responsible for development of standards for body temperature measurement devices. More information about the task group's work can be found at: Machin, G., *et al*, "Letter: Global initiative to improve infra-red based body temperature measurements", *Thermology Int.*, **30**, p. 96, (2020)

**If you are a manufacturer, supplier or user of instrumentation for body temperature measurement, we will appreciate your participation in our stakeholder's forum and replying to this questionnaire: [GO TO QUESTIONNAIRE](#).**