Creating decision support tools for shared decision making

The decision support tools are resources that help patients better understand the options available to them. They help clinicians explain treatment options and the risks and benefits of each, while allowing patients to consider their values - what’s important to them - in making the decision about which treatment to choose. They are freely available on the NHS England website.
What is this about?
The Winton Centre team with NHS England created 8 decision aids. These tools support shared-decision making by making treatment options explicit, providing balanced evidence-based information about the associated benefits and risks, and helping patients to consider what matters most to them in relation to the possible outcomes, including doing nothing.

Whom are they for?
Patients and clinicians. They can be used during a consultation in clinic or be taken away to be read before or immediately after appointments. They are screen-reader friendly and generally have a reading age of 9-11.

How did you make these?
We followed a user-centered design process. We talked to doctors, other clinicians, patients, patient organizations, all through 1-on-1 interviews (200+). We developed a draft of the tool with the help of a graphic design team. We tested this document with patients and clinicians, iteratively amending and testing through multiple rounds. We included the latest data and adhered to NICE and International Patient Decision Aid Standard (IPDAS) guidelines for decision aids.

What’s next?
We’ve been asked to make another set of tools – these will be available next year!

Where can I see these?
You can go to the NHS decision support tool pages, or scan the QR Code.

I’ve seen them and I’ve got opinions!
Great, come talk to us! Good or bad, we’d like to hear what you think.