

# Executive summary

*This toolkit is designed to inform clinicians, patients and commissioners about lipoprotein apheresis treatment in the UK. The toolkit provides information about the nature of the treatment, types of patients being treated, referral and funding mechanisms for apheresis, and current sites in the UK.*

The toolkit has been developed because lipoprotein apheresis is a crucial form of treatment for people with severe, statin-resistant hypercholesterolaemia (high cholesterol). The toolkit fills an important gap in resources, since the treatment is not widely known or understood, even among many in the medical fraternity.

**The toolkit is divided into four sections:**

1. Introduction
2. Setting up and protocols for a lipoprotein apheresis service
3. Patient information and referral
4. Commissioning and the case for apheresis

Each section includes appendices containing documents that can be utilised or adapted for local use.

Throughout this toolkit the terms “Lipoprotein apheresis”, “LDL apheresis” and “Lipid apheresis” are used synonymously.