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News release

NICE announces development of further Quality Standards

NICE has today (Thursday 12 August) announced nine new quality standards that it will develop during 2010/11. These were referred to NICE from the Department of Health following advice from the National Quality Board (NQB).

NICE quality standards are markers of excellent care. They are produced collaboratively with the NHS and social care professionals, along with their partners and service users. They are derived from the best available evidence, usually NICE guidance or other sources that have been accredited by NHS Evidence. Quality standards set out the structures and processes of care, as well as the best outcomes for patients that the standard is likely to bring about.

The new quality standards are for the management of:

1. Breast cancer
2. Type 1 and 2 diabetes
3. Chronic kidney disease
4. End of life care
5. Glaucoma
6. Depression
7. Chronic heart failure

8. Alcohol dependence (treatment only, not primary prevention or causation)
9. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Dr Fergus Macbeth, Centre for Clinical Practice Director at NICE said: “I am pleased to announce that NICE will be developing these nine topics as quality standards. NICE quality standards provide the NHS and the public with clear statements and associated measures, which will be used to assess existing practice and improve future services. They will focus on outcomes of care, as well as patient experience and cost effectiveness.”

NICE has already produced quality standards on stroke, dementia, and venous thromboembolism (VTE) prevention.

Ends

Notes to Editors

- Further information on quality standards is available here:
<http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp>

About NICE

- The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
- NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
 1. **public health** – guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector.
 2. **health technologies** – guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments, procedures and medical technologies within the NHS.
 3. **clinical practice** – guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.