

Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

Original members thanked for role in NICE's Citizens Council

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) would like to publicly thank 10 of the original members of the Citizen's Council who today step down from their role.

In 2002 NICE established its Citizens Council, an innovation to reflect public opinion in the guidance that NICE publishes about the clinical and cost effectiveness of treatments and care for the NHS. The Council is made up of 15 men and 15 women drawn from all walks of life that reflect the make up of the population in England and Wales. Their ages range from 19 to 77.

The Citizens Council helps NICE find out what members of the public think about key issues informing the development of the guidance NICE issues on the treatments and care that people can expect in the NHS. The Citizens Council is an opportunity for a 30-strong group of people, drawn from all groups in the population, to have their say about social values relating to the work of NICE.

Today NICE announced that ten randomly selected members of the Council, will be retiring from the Council and that they are to be replaced by ten new members. This

is the first time since its inception in 2002 that the Citizens Council membership has been refreshed.

During their time with the Council these members contributed to the production of two reports, which were submitted on behalf of the Council for consideration by the Institute's Board. The first report considered what the Institute should take into account when determining clinical need and the second considered whether age should be taken into account when treating patients on the NHS in England and Wales.

One member said: 'Being a member of the Citizens Council was an incredibly rewarding experience. I have gained ample insight into NICE, the NHS and have developed a keen interest in investigating all sides of an argument'.

NICE Chairman, Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, said, 'The Citizens Council has provided a very important insight into the views of the general public. We are very grateful to all the members for their dedication and hard work in tackling issues that were very challenging. I would particularly like to thank the ten members that are stepping down for the tremendous contribution they have made. It has been invaluable to the work of the Council and to NICE.'

He added, 'The groundbreaking work of the Citizens Council will continue in 2004 and I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome the new members'.

Ends

Please direct all enquiries and interview requests to Victoria Carrahar on 020 7067 5906 and 07879 880571

Notes for editors

1. About NICE

- NICE is part of the NHS. It is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the NHS in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare. For further information about NICE visit www.nice.org.uk.
- NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:

- the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales - technology appraisals
- the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS in England and Wales - clinical guidelines.
- whether interventional procedures used for diagnosis or treatment are safe enough and work well enough for routine use– interventional procedures.

NICE also funds three enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated to identify ways of improving the quality of care (the investigations are known as confidential enquiries).

- NICE guidance and recommendations are prepared by independent groups that include professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers.

2. The Citizens Council and its work.

- The Citizens Council is an innovation to reflect public opinion in the guidance that NICE publishes about the clinical and cost effectiveness of treatments and care for the NHS.
- The Council is facilitated by an independent company, Vision 21. Most decisions are reached by consensus, with votes being taken where necessary.
- The Open University has been appointed to independently evaluate the work of the Citizens Council for the first two years following its inauguration. Its research will provide information for NICE on how to maximise value from the Citizens Council.
- The Citizens Council has issued two reports. The first considered the question, 'What should NICE take into account when making decisions about clinical need'. The second report looked at, 'Are there circumstances in which the age of a person should be taken into account when NICE is making a decision about how treatments should be used in the NHS?'. Copies of both reports can be downloaded from the Institute's website at www.nice.nhs.uk.

3. The membership of the Citizens Council

The members stepping down from the Council are:

- **Scott Chapman** - a prison officer who lives in Corby, Northamptonshire.
- **Tracey Christmas** - an accountant who lives in Hull, East Yorkshire.
- **Rashad Khan** - an administrator who lives in Keighley, West Yorkshire.
- **Deborah Lee** - a part-time advertisement make-up artist and housewife who lives in Bournemouth, Dorset.
- **Ray Longstaffe** - a former builder who lives in Brecon, Powys.
- **John MacGlashan** - a retired security officer, from Liverpool, Merseyside.
- **Sunita Nanda** - a local government officer, who lives in Middlesex.
- **Audrey Pestell** - a retired head teacher, who lives in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.
- **Marie Raynor** - a housewife, who lives in Sale, Greater Manchester.
- **Colin Stewart** - a self-employed IT systems advisor who lives in London.

The new members are:

- **Geraldine Fost** - a retired careers guidance manager, who lives in Hungerford, Berkshire.
- **Lorna Girling** - a part time literature student, housewife and mother of two who lives in Norfolk.
- **Terry Hamer** - lives in Southampton. He works on the cruise ships at the terminal.

- **Robert Jones** - works as a warehouse operative and is a football referee in his spare time. He lives in Cwmbran, Wales.
- **Arun Jotangia** - lives in Bolton. Arun currently works in a post office, but used to be a hairdresser.
- **Linda Moss** - currently unemployed, trained as a TEFL teacher and now lives in Todmorden, West Yorkshire.
- **Lisa Pompeo** - a communications operator for the police who lives in Bradford.
- **Heena Sabir** - works in human resources and has recently moved to Huddersfield.
- **Paddy Storrie** - a secondary school deputy head teacher who lives in Harpenden, Herts.