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## *National Institute for Clinical Excellence*

Mid City Place  
71 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 6NA

Tel: 020 7067 5800  
Fax: 020 7067 5801  
[nice@nice.nhs.uk](mailto:nice@nice.nhs.uk)

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

# **NICE guidance on caesarean section**

**NICE has not issued guidance on caesarean section. This guideline is due to be published in April 2004. Recent reports in the media are based on a first draft version of the guideline which was published on the NICE website in September 2003.**

NICE published the first draft of its clinical guideline for England and Wales on caesarean section in September 2003. The guideline is being developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Women's and Children's Health on behalf of NICE, and the first draft version is available on the NICE website at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Docref.asp?d=86311> for information. The second draft of this guideline is due to be published on 21<sup>st</sup> November for further consultation.

As with all clinical guidelines NICE was asked to develop this guideline by the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government.

**Andrea Sutcliffe, an Executive Director at NICE said,** "The Institute follows an open and consultative process when developing clinical guidelines. As you would expect this means that recommendations in draft versions of the guideline may change before final guidance is published. Consultations are invited from stakeholder organisations that have registered their interest with the Institute via its web site. Although individuals and organisations not registered as stakeholders are also able to comment, we recommend they contact the registered stakeholder that most closely represents their interests and pass their comments to that organisation. NICE works closely with stakeholder organisations and takes their views very seriously."

## Ends

## Notes for editors

### About the clinical guideline on caesarean section

1. Clinical guidelines are recommendations on the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS in England and Wales. They sit alongside, but do not replace, the knowledge and skills of experienced health professionals.
2. Our clinical guidelines are developed by independent groups that include healthcare professionals working in the NHS, patients and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers. Professional and patient/carer groups whose members are likely to be affected by the guideline are able to submit information and comment on the recommendations before they are finalised.
3. The National Collaborating Centre for Women's & Children's Health is based at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and involves the following partners:
  - Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
  - Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care
  - Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
  - Association for Genito-Urinary Medicine and Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases
  - Royal College of Midwives.
4. Further details about the clinical guideline on the management of caesarean section, including details of the timescale for development and the scope of the guideline (which outlines what it will cover) are available from <http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=20067>
5. The following stakeholder organisations are involved in the development of the Institute's guideline on caesarean section:
  - Action on Pre-Eclampsia (APEC)
  - Alliance Pharmaceuticals Ltd
  - Association for Improvements in Maternity Services (AIMS)
  - Association of Baby Charities
  - Association of British Health-Care Industries
  - Association of Radical Midwives
  - AstraZeneca UK Ltd
  - British Association of Perinatal Medicine
  - British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society
  - British Medical Association
  - British National Formulary (BNF)
  - British Psychological Society, The
  - Cochrane Pregnancy & Childbirth Group
  - County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
  - Contact a Family
  - Department of Health
  - English National Forum of LSA Midwifery Officers
  - Evidence based Midwifery Network
  - Faculty of Public Health
  - Faculty of Public Health Medicine
  - Ferring Pharmaceuticals Limited
  - Fibroid Network Charity
  - General Medical Council

- Group B Strep Support
- Infection control Nurses Association of the British Isles
- National Association of Theatre Nurses
- National Childbirth Trust
- National Council for Disabled People, Black, Minority and Ethnic Community
- Neoventa Medical
- NHS Information Authority, (PHSMI Programme)
- NHS Quality Improvement Scotland
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust
- Nottingham City Hospital
- Obstetric Anaesthetists Association
- Royal College of Anaesthetists
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal College of General Practitioners Wales
- Royal College of Midwives, The
- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Networks (SIGN)
- The Royal Society of Medicine
- Tissue Viability Nurses Association
- Twins & Multiple births Association (TAMBA)
- UK Coalition of People Living with HIV & AIDS
- UK Pain Society
- Welsh Assembly Government (formerly National Assembly for Wales)

6. The implementation of NICE guidance and the funding of that implementation is a matter for the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government. They are both stakeholders in the guideline development process and have the opportunity to make comments on draft versions of the guideline.

#### **About NICE**

7. 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 you can visit [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk).
8. 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.
9. 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).
10. 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.