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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Review of the appraisal process and methodology – NICE publishes consultation documents**

NICE has published two consultation documents which outline changes to the methodology and process that underpin the NICE technology appraisal work programme.

The first consultation document - **Guide to the technology appraisal process** - provides an overview of the appraisal process and describes the opportunities for healthcare professionals, patients and carers, and manufacturers to comment on and/or contribute to the appraisal at different stages in the development process. Some key changes to the process include:

- Earlier involvement of consultees in setting the scope of the appraisal
- Greater transparency with more documents used in appraisals being made public
- Clarity about when and how the Institute will update its guidance

The second consultation document - **Guide to the methods of technology appraisal** – provides an overview of the principles and methods of health technology assessment as it is undertaken by NICE . New in this update is:

- a clear statement of how the Appraisal Committee arrives at its judgements on clinical and cost effectiveness
- a more detailed description of the evidence taken into account and how it is interpreted
- the use by the Appraisal Committee of a 'reference case' economic model approach

The Institute's stakeholders have been invited to comment on both documents which have been posted on the NICE web site to enable all those with an interest to comment. The consultation period ends on **26<sup>th</sup> September 2003**.

**Ends**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About NICE**

1. 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).
2. 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).
3. 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.

### **About the review of the appraisal process**

4. Further information about the review and the structure of the review groups is available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/Docref.asp?d=72607>
5. Completed comments tables can be emailed to [jo.davis@nice.nhs.uk](mailto:jo.davis@nice.nhs.uk).
6. Please note that this is a separate consultation to that currently under way on the Guideline Development Process. For further information see <http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=78538>.

## **About technology appraisals**

7. Technology appraisals are recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales, such as:
  - medicines (for example, drugs)
  - medical devices (for example, hearing aids or inhalers)
  - diagnostic techniques (tests used to identify diseases)
  - surgical procedures (for example, repairing hernias)
  - health promotion activities (for example, patient education models for diabetes).
8. Our technology appraisal recommendations are prepared by an independent Committee, who include healthcare professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers. The Committee considers the evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of the technology – this includes hearing the views of, and evidence from, clinical health professionals, experts and patients.
9. NHS organisations in England and Wales have to make the resources and facilities available to enable NICE guidance to be implemented. In January 2002 the Government announced a legal obligation for the NHS to provide funding for treatments and drugs recommended by NICE as a part of its technology appraisals work programme