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PRESS RELEASE

PATIENT INVOLVEMENT UNIT TRANSFERS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

The Patient Involvement Unit [PIU], formerly based at the College of Health, has today transferred to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence.

The PIU works with NICE to develop opportunities for involving patients and carers across NICE's work programme. The PIU was based at the College of Health, a national charity that promoted patients interests in the NHS. The College of Health is now in receivership.

Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive of NICE, said: "The Patient Involvement Unit (PIU) was set up to provide independent advice and support to NICE on patient and carer involvement, which is integral to the guidance we produce. We are keen to ensure that the important work of the PIU is sustained and we have made arrangements to ensure that this is the case. The PIU will be based at NICE for the foreseeable future.

We would like to thank the College of Health for providing help and expertise to support the work of the PIU."

Dr Marcia Kelson, Director of the PIU, commented: "Whilst this has been a difficult time for the staff of the PIU, we are pleased that we have been able to make the smooth transition to NICE. This will allow us to continue our work and the invaluable support that we provide to patients and patients across NICE's work programme."

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.
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.