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PRESS STATEMENT

**NICE RESPONDS TO PUBLICATION OF 2003
REPORT OF NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL ENQUIRY
INTO PERIOPERATIVE DEATHS**

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence today welcomed the 2003 publication of the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (NCEPOD) entitled “Who Operates When? II” [WOW II].

Professor Peter Littlejohns, Clinical Director at NICE, said: “We welcome the publication of WOW II. NCEPOD have produced a comprehensive report which raises important issues and recommends key areas where hospitals across England and Wales can improve emergency surgery and perioperative care. It is particularly encouraging that since the publication of WOW I in 1997, a number of recommendations have been taken on board and implemented by hospitals. However, the report highlights that there are still important issues that can be addressed and improved to raise national standards.”

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.

About the Confidential Enquiries

1. NICE funds three enquiries that undertake research into the way patients are treated, to identify ways of improving the quality of care. These reviews are known as National Confidential Enquiries.
2. The Confidential Enquiries cover suicide and homicide by people with mental illness, maternal and child health, and the quality of care relating to medical and surgical interventions.

You can access further information about the confidential enquiries by logging on to the following websites:

[National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths \(NCEPOD\)](#)

[Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health \(CEMACH\)](#)

[Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness \(CISH\)](#)