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PRESS RELEASE

**NICE PUBLISHES REVISED GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT
PROCESS**

NICE has revised its clinical guideline development process with the publication today of two new documents detailing the process.

The Guideline Development Process – An Overview for Stakeholders, the Public and the NHS describes the revised clinical guideline development process. In particular, it outlines the process by which organisations can register as stakeholders, the stages of the guideline development at which registered stakeholders can contribute, and how stakeholders can contribute. This document replaces the three documents published in 2001 and 2002.

During the development of this process guide, the Institute consulted widely among the NHS, patient organisations and industry, and posted a draft on the website for public comment. This final version has been produced after considering all of the comments received during the consultation period.

Guideline Development Methods – Information for National Collaborating Centres and Guideline Developers is a detailed resource intended primarily for those involved in developing guidelines for the Institute, such as the National Collaborating Centres and guideline development groups.

Like the process guide, the methods document was consulted on in 2003 and comments received were considered in the preparation of the final version.

Peter Littlejohns, Clinical Director at NICE and the director responsible for the NICE guidelines programme, said: “It is important that we regularly review the processes by which we produce our guidance to ensure that we continue to properly engage with both health professionals and patients and that, ultimately, the guidance we produce is both relevant and robust.”

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.
3. 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).
4. 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 NICE clinical guidelines

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. NICE 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.

For details of NICE clinical guidelines currently in development, log on to the website at <http://www.nice.org.uk/catcg1.asp?c=20055>.

About the guideline development process documents

1. The following new guideline development process documents are available on the NICE website at <http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=22334>:
 - [The Guideline Development Process - An Overview for Stakeholders, the Public and the NHS](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Contents and overview](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 1: Introduction](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 2: Scoping the guideline](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 3: Preparing the workplan](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 4: Forming and running a Guideline Development Group](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 5: Developing clinical questions](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 6: Identifying the evidence](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 7: Reviewing and grading the evidence](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 8: Incorporating health economics in guidelines and assessing resource impact](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 9: Making group decisions and reaching consensus](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 10: Linking guidelines to the technology appraisal programme](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 11: Creating guideline recommendations](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 12: Developing audit criteria](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 13: Writing the guideline](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 14: Consultation and dealing with stakeholders' comments](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Chapter 15: Updating guidelines and correcting errors](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendices \(Contents\)](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix A](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix B](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix C](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix D](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix E](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix F](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix G](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix H](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix I](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix J](#)
 - [Guideline Development Methods - Appendix K](#)