

National Institute for Clinical Excellence

MidCity Place
71 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6NA

Tel: 020 7067 5800
Fax: 020 7067 5801
nice@nice.nhs.uk

www.nice.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

NICE Welsh Language Scheme formally launched at public Board meeting in Wrexham

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is pleased to announce that its Welsh language scheme has been approved by the Welsh Language Board. Members of the public can see the scheme in action at the Institute's public meeting in Wrexham on Wednesday 17 September.

From its establishment in 1999 NICE has recognised that language can play an important part in people's healthcare and has been committed to complying with the requirements of the Welsh language Act. From the outset the Institute's guidance, has, and continues to be, accompanied by information for the public in both Welsh and English.

The Institute's Welsh Language Scheme incorporates a website where all information aimed at the public is bilingual; in addition NICE has established systems which enable members of the public to contact the Institute in Welsh. At the Wrexham Board meeting, as with all public meetings held in Wales, the Institute is making all papers available in both Welsh and English and offering simultaneous translation services to enable Welsh speakers to listen to the proceedings in their first language.

Welsh Language Board Chair, Rhodri Williams said:

“The Board, of course, welcomes the launch of all Welsh Language Schemes, but we are particularly pleased to see developments within the NHS where the need to ensure the provision of language choice is so important.

“NICE’s scheme is a further commitment on the part of an organisation which has shown respect for the principle of equality between both Welsh and English from the outset. It goes without saying that we wish NICE well with the implementation of its Scheme, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future.”

Roy Luff OBE, NICE Non Executive Director with a lead for Wales said ‘NICE is responsible for providing guidance for people using the NHS in both England and Wales. From the beginning the organisation has taken the values of the Welsh Language Act to the heart of its operations. Staff are genuinely committed to using the Welsh Language appropriately and do so as a part of their everyday work. NICE has a Welsh Language Officer, Julian Lewis, and I commend him for his work behind the scenes in helping the organisation deliver on its commitments”.

Ends

For more information call Victoria Carrahar on 020 7067 5906 and 07879 880571.

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.

About NICE's Welsh Language Scheme

4. NICE's Welsh Language Scheme was approved by the Welsh Language Board on 24 March 2003. Full details of the Institute's scheme can be found at <http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=69020>.
5. Information about the Welsh Language Board can be found at <http://www.bwrdd-yr-iaith.org.uk/>.
6. NICE's public Board meeting is taking place at the North East Wales Institute (NEWI) in Wrexham on Wednesday 17 September at 2pm. Papers for the meeting will be available at least two days in advance from the Institute's website www.nice.org.uk. For further information about the Board meeting please contact Victoria Carrahar on 020 7067 5906.