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PRESS RELEASE

NICE asked to develop guidance on deep vein thrombosis, post natal depression, prostate cancer, breast cancer and tooth decay

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) today welcomes the announcement of additional topics for its forward work programme. Topics including deep vein thrombosis, post natal depression, prostate cancer, breast cancer and tooth decay have been referred to NICE by the Secretary of State for Health and the Welsh Assembly Government in line with the national priorities they have established for the NHS. Once these topics have been referred, the development of the subsequent advice is entirely the responsibility of NICE.

The Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government have formally referred:

- Eight clinical guidelines which include guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and management of anaemia, children presenting with a feverish illness, diabetes in pregnancy, breast cancer, prostate cancer and pre- and post-natal depression.
- Ten technologies for appraisal, which include technologies used to treat conditions such as lupus, hepatitis B, progressive inflammatory disease, tooth decay, deep vein thrombosis, stroke, heart failure and falls.

Commenting on the referrals, **Andrew Dillon, NICE Chief Executive said**, “NICE welcomes the topics referred today, which cover a wide range of diseases and conditions. The advice on the best approach to care in each case will help patients and health professionals make important treatment decisions. We will begin developing guidance as soon as possible, and we will publish details of the timetables for these topics on our web site shortly”.

Technology appraisals are recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and other treatments, and clinical guidelines are recommendations on the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions. NICE provides national guidance on treatments and care for people using the NHS in England and Wales.

The Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for selecting the topics for the NICE work programme. Full details of the process that is followed by the Department of Health and Welsh Assembly Government when selecting topics for NICE to consider can be found on the Department of Health's website at: www.doh.gov.uk/nice/consultation2002.

Ends

Notes to Editors

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 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.
3. The full list of topics referred by the Department of Health on Tuesday 14th October 2003 is shown below:

Technology Appraisals:

- Adefovir dipivoxil for chronic hepatitis B
- Erythropoetin (EPO) in chemotherapy induced anaemia

- Etanercept and infliximab for ankylosing spondylitis (progressive inflammatory disease of the spine)
- Fallers' clinics
- HealOzone for tooth decay
- Ximelagatran for the treatment of Venous thrombo-embolism (deep vein thrombosis)
- Ximelagatran for the prevention of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation (abnormal heart rhythm)
- Nesiritide for acute decompensated heart failure
- Prasterone for systematic lupus erythematosus (lupus)
- Thrombophilia screening (to screen for patients at high risk of thrombotic events)

Clinical Guidelines:

- Anaemia management in renal failure
 - Assessment and initial management of children presenting with a feverish illness
 - Diabetes in pregnancy
 - Diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer
 - Diagnosis and management of prostate cancer
 - Investigation and management of urinary tract infection in children
 - Management of atrial fibrillation
 - Management of puerperal/perinatal mental health (pre- and post-natal depression)
4. Full details are available in a Department of Health press release at www.doh.gov.uk or from the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5010.