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Clinical Excellence***

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PRESS RELEASE

**NICE TO DEVELOP GUIDELINE ON DIAGNOSIS AND
MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME/
MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (CFS/ME)**

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) welcomes the opportunity to develop a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME). For people with CFS/ME, their carers and the health professionals responsible for their care the guideline will offer clear advice on what the NHS should provide, based upon the best available evidence.

This guideline was referred by the Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government, who 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.dh.gov.uk

Information about the clinical guideline, including a detailed timetable, will be published on the NICE website at www.nice.org.uk as soon as it is available.

Ends

For more information call Phil Ranson (NICE) on 020 7067 5904 and 0778 639 0068 or Steve Ryan at the Department of Health Media Centre on 020 7210 5226.

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 four 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.
4. This clinical guideline, together with research and service development, is part of the Department of Health's strategy to improve treatment and care for patients with CFS/ME. The Medical Research Council published a Research Strategy for CFS/ME in May 2003, and new services for CFS/ME were announced on 20 January 2004. For further details on these new CFS/ME services see the Department of Health's press release 2004/0022 on the Department of Health website (www.doh.gov.uk).
5. NICE has been asked to develop clinical guidelines for CFS/ME in addition to its ninth work programme, announced on Tuesday 14 October 2003. This included treatments for people with chemotherapy induced anaemia, and heart failure, and clinical guidance on breast and prostate cancer and puerperal/perinatal mental health. For further details on the ninth work programme see the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk).