

National Institute for Clinical Excellence

Mid City 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 announces review of appraisal process

NICE is undertaking a planned review of the appraisal process and methodologies used to develop its technology appraisal guidance. The reviews will run concurrently and be completed by the end of 2003 in time for discussion at the Institute's Public Board meeting in November.

Although they are linked and will both be subject to consultation there are in essence two separate reviews underway:

- a review of the technology appraisal process
- a review of the methodologies used to develop technology appraisal guidance

The reviews will result in the publication of two separate documents; one on the appraisal process and a second on methodologies.

In parallel, the Institute will develop a series of publications which will help stakeholders engage with the appraisal process. At the present time it is envisaged that these 'how to' guides will be for professionals, patients/ carers and manufacturers. Publication of these guides will follow shortly after the process and methodology documents have been completed. This will allow time for the output of the review to feed into the guides.

Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive of NICE said: "NICE is committed to ensuring that its processes and methodologies are up to date, clearly explained and offer stakeholders the opportunity to engage fully. The review of the appraisal process will

involve stakeholders and draft versions of the documents will be published on our website at the end of July to allow anyone interested in our work to comment.”

Notes to Editors

Further information

1. A summary of the appraisal review process is available on the NICE website at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Docref.asp?d=72607>

About NICE

2. 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.
3. 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.

About technology appraisals

4. Technology appraisals are recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales, such as:
 - medicines (for example, drugs)
 - medical devices (for example, hearing aids or inhalers)
 - diagnostic techniques (tests used to identify diseases)
 - surgical procedures (for example, repairing hernias)
 - health promotion activities (for example, patient education models for diabetes).
5. Our technology appraisal recommendations are prepared by an independent Committee, who include healthcare professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers. The Committee considers the evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of the technology – this includes hearing the views of, and evidence from, clinical health professionals, experts and patients.
6. NHS organisations in England and Wales have to make the resources and facilities available to enable NICE guidance to be implemented. In January 2002 the Government

announced a legal obligation for the NHS to provide funding for treatments and drugs recommended by NICE as a part of its technology appraisals work programme