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### **NICE consults on second draft guideline on the management of hypertension in adults in primary care**

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently consulting on the second draft clinical guideline on the management of hypertension in primary care. NICE has not yet issued guidance to the NHS on how adults with hypertension should be cared for and the draft guideline may change following consultation. The final guidance is expected in June 2004.

The draft version is available on the NICE website at <http://www.nice.org.uk/article.asp?a=103418> for a four week consultation period which ends on the 2 March 2004 (10am).

**Andrea Sutcliffe, Executive Lead for this guideline, said,** “NICE is currently developing guidelines on the management of hypertension in adults in the primary care setting. NICE follows an open and consultative process when producing clinical guidelines. Anyone with an interest in the guidance can comment on the draft version via the NICE website.”

A list of stakeholders for this appraisal can be found on our web site at [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk) ”

**Ends**

## Notes for 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](http://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 the clinical guideline

4. 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.
5. The guideline on hypertension is being developed by the Newcastle Guideline Development and Research Unit based at the University of Newcastle, a professionally-led group with the experience and resources to develop guidance for the NHS on behalf of NICE.
6. Further details about the clinical guideline on the management of hypertension in adults in primary care, including details of the timescale for development, list of stakeholders and the scope of the guideline (which outlines what it will cover) are available from <http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=20091>