

**National Institute for
Clinical Excellence**

Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6NA

Tel: 020 7067 5800
Fax: 020 7061 5801
nice@nice.nhs.uk

www.nice.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

NICE welcomes full schizophrenia guideline and training programme

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE or the Institute) has today welcomed the publication of the full schizophrenia guideline by the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (NCCMH). In addition, the Institute supports the launch of a new training package that will enable healthcare professionals to familiarise themselves with the schizophrenia guideline in an interactive training programme.

The NCCMH, which is funded by NICE, has produced three versions of *Schizophrenia: core interventions for the treatment and management of people with schizophrenia in primary and secondary care*:

- the NICE guideline, which contains recommendations for the NHS – this guideline was issued by NICE on 3rd December 2003
- information for the public that is written for people without specialist medical knowledge
- the full guideline which contains all the evidence considered in developing the guideline – this is the version being published today

Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive of NICE said: “Today’s publication is an exciting time for the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health and for the Institute. This is the first full guideline to be published by any of the National Collaborating

Centres. In addition, the launch of a new interactive training package means that health professionals can be supported in their implementation of this important piece of work.”

Ends

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.
3. 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).
4. 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 clinical guidelines

5. 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.
6. NICE clinical guidelines are developed by independent groups that include healthcare professionals working in the NHS, patients and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers. Professional and patient/carer groups whose members are likely to be affected by the guideline are able to submit information and comment on the recommendations before they are finalised.
7. For details of NICE clinical guidelines currently in development, log on to the website at <http://www.nice.org.uk/catcq1.asp?c=20055>.

About the Schizophrenia guideline

8. The National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health is led jointly at the British Psychological Society and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and thirteen organisations form a reference group for the Centre:

- Royal College of Nursing
- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- College of Occupational Therapists
- Royal College of General Practitioners
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Centre for Evidence Based Mental Health
- Centre for the Economics of Mental Health
- British Psychological Society
- Institute of Psychiatry
- MIND
- Social Care Institute for Excellence
- Rethink
- Manic Depression Fellowship

9. The training programme can be access via the Royal College of Psychiatrists website at <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/cru/sts/index.htm>. Copies of the full version of the guideline have been published by Gaskell Press and are available with an accompanying CD-Rom for £50.