

## Quick reference guide

# Cardiac resynchronisation therapy for the treatment of heart failure

## 1 Guidance

This guidance should be read in conjunction with 'Implantable cardioverter defibrillators for arrhythmias' (NICE technology appraisal guidance 95; see [www.nice.org.uk/TA095](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA095)). This guidance on cardiac resynchronisation therapy provides additional treatment options for some of the groups of people covered in the guidance on implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs).

- 1.1 Cardiac resynchronisation therapy with a pacing device (CRT-P) is recommended as a treatment option for people with heart failure who fulfil all the following criteria.
- They are currently experiencing or have recently experienced New York Heart Association (NYHA) class III–IV symptoms.
  - They are in sinus rhythm:
    - **either** with a QRS duration of 150 ms or longer estimated by standard electrocardiogram (ECG)
    - **or** with a QRS duration of 120–149 ms estimated by ECG **and** mechanical dyssynchrony that is confirmed by echocardiography.
  - They have a left ventricular ejection fraction of 35% or less.
  - They are receiving optimal pharmacological therapy.

- 1.2 Cardiac resynchronisation therapy with a defibrillator device (CRT-D) may be considered for people who fulfil the criteria for implantation of a CRT-P device in section 1.1 and who also separately fulfil the criteria for the use of an ICD device as recommended in NICE technology appraisal guidance 95.

## 2 Implementation

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website ([www.nice.org.uk/TA120](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA120)).

- Local costing template incorporating costing report to estimate the savings and costs associated with implementation.
- Audit criteria to monitor local practice.

<sup>1</sup> The guidance on this technology for people who do not have additional risk factors for sudden cardiac death will be considered for review in July 2010. Guidance on the use of a defibrillator device (CRT-D or ICD) for people with heart failure and additional risk factors for sudden cardiac death will be considered for review in 2008.

## NICE technology appraisal guidance 120

### This guidance is written in the following context

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

## Further information

### Quick reference guide

This has been distributed to healthcare professionals working in the NHS in England and Wales (see [www.nice.org.uk/TA120distributionlist](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA120distributionlist)). It is available from [www.nice.org.uk/TA120quickrefguide](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA120quickrefguide)

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1265).

### Full guidance

This contains the following sections:

- 1 Guidance
- 2 Clinical need and practice
- 3 The technology
- 4 Evidence and interpretation
- 5 Implementation
- 6 Recommendations for further research
- 7 Related NICE guidance
- 8 Review of guidance.

The full guidance also gives details of the Appraisal Committee and the sources of evidence considered. It is available from [www.nice.org.uk/TA120guidance](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA120guidance)

## 'Understanding NICE guidance'

Information for patients and their carers is available from [www.nice.org.uk/TA120publicinfo](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA120publicinfo)

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1266).

### Related NICE guidance

- MI: secondary prevention in primary and secondary care for patients following a myocardial infarction. NICE clinical guideline 48 (2007). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/CG048](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG048)
- Implantable cardioverter defibrillators for arrhythmias (review of technology appraisal guidance 11). NICE technology appraisal guidance 95 (2006). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/TA095](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA095)
- Atrial fibrillation: the management of atrial fibrillation. NICE clinical guideline 36 (2006). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/CG036](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG036)
- Chronic heart failure: management of chronic heart failure in adults in primary and secondary care. NICE clinical guideline 5 (2003). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/CG005](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG005)