

Date and Time: *Wednesday 2nd November 2011 (10:00–16:30)*

Minutes: Confirmed

Varicose Veins Guideline Development Group Meeting 2

Place: *Boardroom, National Clinical Guideline Centre, 180 Great Portland Street,
London W1W 5QZ*

Present: Prof. Alun Davies (Chair) (All present for notes 1–11)
Mr Nick Hickey
Mr Keith Poskitt
Dr Mark Vaughan
David Evans
Hazel Trender
Dr Mustapha Azzam
Joyce Calam
Dr Jocelyn Brookes
Prof. Andrew Bradbury

In attendance:

NICE Staff: Caroline Keir	Guidelines Commissioning Manager	(Present for notes 1–11)
NCGC Staff: Dr Kate Kelley Dr Quyen Chu	Associate Director Senior Project Manager/Research Fellow	(All present for notes 1– 11)
Dr Mark Perry	Research Fellow	
Ebenezer Tetteh Richard Whittome Dr Katharina Dworzynski	Senior Health economist Information Scientist Senior Research Fellow	

Observers:

NCGC Staff: Katie Jones	Project Manager	(Present for notes 1–11)
NICE Staff: Jennifer Heaton	Project Co-ordinator	(Present for notes 1–11)

Notes

1. The Chair welcomed the group to the second Varicose Veins Guideline Development Group Meeting (GDG2) and asked attendees to introduce themselves. No apologies were received. The Chair requested updates to the existing declarations of interests from GDG members. He submitted his declaration of interest form and all others declared that they had no change of circumstances since their previous declaration.
2. The Chair asked the GDG for any comments on the minutes of the GDG1 meeting. The GDG had no comments to add and agreed it was as an accurate representation of the GDG 1 meeting.

Notes

3. A live demonstration on how to login, access and retrieve meeting papers on the varicose veins guideline from Claromentis was given.
4. A presentation on GRADE outlining the key points on how this is used to assess the quality of evidence was given by a member of the NCGC Technical Team.

Clinical question: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of compression therapy compared with no treatment / lifestyle advice in people with leg varicose veins?

- Members of the NCGC Technical Team presented the clinical and health economic evidence found for this question to the GDG. In addition, the importance of considering clinical importance was explained and the GDG was introduced to the clinical evidence table and how it can be used to support their decision making.
5. **Clinical question: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of stripping surgery compared with sclerotherapy in people with truncal leg varicose veins?**
Members of the NCGC Technical Team presented the clinical and health economic evidence found for this question to the GDG. The Group then discussed the evidence and agreed that once revisions have been made to the evidence report, they will draft the recommendation at a future GDG meeting.
 6. **Areas for health economic prioritisation**
The health economist on the NCGC Technical Team presented to the GDG the possible areas for health economic prioritisation. The Chair and 3 volunteers from the GDG formed a Health Economic Subgroup, who over the next 6–7 weeks will be working on identifying the specific areas (questions) in which original health economic modelling will be done.
 7. **Proposed work plan and review protocols**
A proposed work plan for scheduled meetings was shared with the GDG that included approximately two clinical questions per GDG meeting and the order in which they will be addressed.

Review protocols for the following two questions (from the list of draft clinical questions on the work plan) were revised by the GDG:

- Q11: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of stripping surgery compared with endothermal ablation in people with truncal leg varicose veins?
- Q13: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of sclerotherapy compared with endothermal ablation in people with truncal leg varicose veins?

The review protocol for the following additional question was developed by the GDG:

- Q12: What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of avulsion surgery compared with sclerotherapy in people with tributary leg varicose veins?

These protocols will be revised and emailed to GDGs after the meeting for final review, comments and feedback, specifically on the outcomes section. Updated protocols will be presented at the next GDG meeting.

8. The Group were given details about the recently added date of 14th November 2011 for an additional health economic workshop to be run by NICE and who to contact.
9. The meeting closed at 4pm.
10. **Date, time and venue of the next meeting**
Wednesday 14th December 2011 (10:00–16:00); Boardroom, NCGC, 180 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5QZ