Date and Time:  Tuesday 24th February 2015
Place:  NCGC office, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ

Minutes: Confirmed

Guideline Development Group Meeting  12 – Low back pain and sciatica

Present:  GDG members
Stephen Ward (SW) – Chair - Consultant in Pain Medicine, Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS trust
Babak Arvin (BA) - Consultant Neurosurgeon, Queens Hospital
Ian Bernstein (IB) - General Practitioner, Gordon House Surgery, London
Gary MacFarlane (GM) - Chair (clinical) in Epidemiology, University of Aberdeen
Mark Mason (MM) - Patient member
Neil O’Connell (NOC) – Lecturer, School of Health Sciences & Social Care Brunel University
Philip Sell (PS) - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Steven Vogel (SV) – Vice Principal (Research), British School of Osteopathy
David Walsh (DW) - Honorary consultant rheumatologist, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Chris Wells (CW) - Consultant in Pain Medicine

NCGC
Serena Carville (SC) – Associate Director
Sophia Kemmis-Betty (SKB) – Senior Health Economist
Qudsia Malik (QM) – Research Fellow
Ben Pordes (BP) – Project Manager

Apologies:  Suzanne Blowey (SB) - Consultant Nurse Chronic Pain, Mount Gould Hospital, Plymouth
Patrick Hill (PH) - Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust
Bethany King (BK) – Document Editor/Process Assistant, NCGC
Kate Lovibond (KL) – Senior Health Economist, NCGC
Diana Robinson (DR) - Patient/Carer member
Simon Somerville (SS) - General Practitioner, Park Medical Centre, Leek, Staffordshire

Observers:  Sana Khan (SK) – Research Fellow, NCGC

In attendance:  

| NICE Staff:       | Ben Doak (BD) | Guidelines Commissioning Manager, NICE |

Notes
1. **Introduction, apologies and minutes**
SW welcomed the group to the twelfth meeting of this GDG. Apologies were received from SB, PH, BK, KL, DR and SS. The minutes from GDG10 and GDG11 were signed off.

2. **Declaration of interests**
No new declarations of interest were received this GDG meeting.

3. **Evidence review: Radiofrequency ablation**
ROM presented the clinical evidence review for radiofrequency ablation. SKB presented the health economic evidence. The GDG discussed the evidence and drafted recommendations.

4. **Protocol: Referral for surgery**
QM led the GDG through the protocol and the GDG discussed changes.

5. **Protocol: Timing of referral for surgery**
QM led the GDG through the protocol and the GDG discussed changes.

6. **Summary of the reviews**
ROM led the GDG reviewed summaries of the evidence for manual therapies, orthotics, postural therapy, psychological therapy, self-management and pharmacological therapy, and the GDG reviewed the provisionally drafted recommendations.

7. **Any other business**
There was no other business.

**Date, time and venue of the next meeting**
Tuesday 7th April 2015, 10:00–16:00, Boardroom, NCGC, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ