

**ISSUED, 7 February 2007**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NICE asked to develop guidance on new treatments for breast and lung cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, obesity and rheumatoid arthritis.**

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) today welcomes the announcement of additional topics for its forward work programme. Topics including new treatments for breast and lung cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, obesity and rheumatoid arthritis, have been referred to NICE by the Secretary of State for Health in line with the national priorities they have established for the NHS.

The following topics have been referred:

- 2 clinical guidelines on:
  - Rheumatoid arthritis in adults
  - Diarrhoea and vomiting in children
- 1 rapid clinical guideline on:
  - Acutely ill patients in hospital
- 5 technologies for appraisal as part of NICE's rapid single technology appraisal (STA) programme on:
  - Bevacizumab for non-small cell lung cancer
  - Certolizumab pegol for rheumatoid arthritis
  - Infliximab for ulcerative colitis
  - Lapatinib for advanced or metastatic breast cancer
  - Rimonabant for the treatment of obese and overweight patients

- 3 technologies for appraisal as part of NICE's multiple technology appraisal (MTA) programme on:
  - Endovascular stents for abdominal aortic aneurysms
  - Machine versus cold (static) storage of donated kidneys
  - Spinal cord stimulation for chronic pain

In addition, NICE has also been asked to appraise adalimumab for moderate to severely active Crohn's disease. It has not yet been confirmed whether this will be appraised as part of the Institute's MTA or STA programmes.

Commenting on the referrals, **Andrew Dillon, NICE Chief Executive** said: "NICE welcomes the referral of today's topics, which address areas of significant concern for those working in the NHS, patients and carers. We are keen to begin developing guidance that will help to inform their decisions about treatment and healthcare in these areas as soon as possible and we will publish details of the timetables for these topics on our web site shortly."

**Ends**

### **Notes to Editors**

1. Full details of the process that is followed by the Department of Health and Welsh Assembly Government when selecting topics for NICE can be found on the Department of Health's website at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk>.
2. Full details of the topics are available from the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5010 or through their website at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk>

### **About NICE**

3. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
4. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:
  - public health** – guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector
  - health technologies** – guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures within the NHS
  - clinical practice** – guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.