

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

**SCOPE****1 Guideline title**

Glaucoma: diagnosis and management of chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension

**1.1 Short title**

Glaucoma

**2 Background**

- a) The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence ('NICE' or 'the Institute') has commissioned the National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care to develop a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension for use in the NHS in England and Wales. This follows referral of the topic by the Department of Health (see appendix). The guideline will provide recommendations for good practice that are based on the best available evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.
- b) The Institute's clinical guidelines will support the implementation of National Service Frameworks (NSFs) in those aspects of care where a Framework has been published. The statements in each NSF reflect the evidence that was used at the time the Framework was prepared. The clinical guidelines and technology appraisals published by the Institute after an NSF has been issued will have the effect of updating the Framework.
- c) NICE clinical guidelines support the role of healthcare professionals in providing care in partnership with patients, taking account of their individual needs and preferences, and ensuring that patients (and

their carers and families, where appropriate) can make informed decisions about their care and treatment.

### **3 Clinical need for the guideline**

- a) Approximately 10% of UK blindness registrations are ascribed to glaucoma. It is estimated that in the UK about 2% of people older than 40 have chronic open angle glaucoma, and this rises to almost 10% in people older than 75. With changes in population demographics the number of people affected by glaucoma is expected to rise.
- b) Chronic open-angle glaucoma tends to be asymptomatic and therefore many people will not notice any symptoms until severe visual damage has occurred. Population-based screening programmes are being considered and the Department of Health's National Screening Committee is undertaking a review of screening programmes due to be published in 2007.
- c) Recent national guidelines on glaucoma include 'Guidelines for the management of open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension' (Royal College of Ophthalmologists, 2004). The Department of Health Do Once And Share project has also developed a glaucoma pathway and dataset (2006).
- d) There is a clinical need for a guideline on diagnosis and management of chronic open angle glaucoma because this is a common and potentially blinding condition associated with uncertainty and variation in clinical practice in a number of areas. These include:
  - an agreed case definition for ocular hypertension and chronic open angle glaucoma
  - an agreed terminology incorporating the influence of raised intraocular pressure (that is, primary open angle glaucoma compared with normal tension glaucoma)

- agreement on when to treat chronic open angle glaucoma and how aggressively to do so
- agreement on whether to treat (simple) ocular hypertension
- which tests should be standard or optional for purposes of diagnosis and chronic disease monitoring
- how frequently patients should be followed up for chronic disease monitoring purposes and whether this interval should vary with perceived disease 'severity'
- who should monitor glaucoma, where this should be undertaken and whether different care providers should be used depending on perceived disease 'severity'

## **4 The guideline**

- a) The guideline development process is described in detail in two publications that are available from the NICE website (see 'Further information'). 'The guideline development process: an overview for stakeholders, the public and the NHS' describes how organisations can become involved in the development of a guideline. 'The guidelines manual' provides advice on the technical aspects of guideline development.
- b) This document is the scope. It defines exactly what this guideline will (and will not) examine, and what the guideline developers will consider. The scope is based on the referral from the Department of Health (see appendix).
- c) The areas that will be addressed by the guideline are described in the following sections.

### **4.1 Population**

#### **4.1.1 Groups that will be covered**

- a) Adults (18 and older) with a diagnosis of chronic open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. That is, individuals who, in the

presence of open or narrow (but not occludable or closed) anterior chamber angles have one or more of the following features:

- glaucomatous visual field loss
  - glaucomatous optic neuropathy
  - raised intraocular pressure.
- b) People with chronic open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension associated with pseudoexfoliation or pigment dispersion..
- c) People who have higher prevalence of glaucoma and may have worse clinical outcomes including:
- people with a family history of glaucoma,
  - younger people (<50 years)
  - people who are of black African or black Caribbean descent

#### **4.1.2 Groups that will not be covered**

- a) People younger than 18 years.
- b) People with secondary glaucoma (for example neovascular or uveitic) except for those described in 4.1.1 b.
- c) People with, or at risk of, primary or secondary angle closure glaucoma.
- d) Adults with primary congenital, infantile or childhood glaucoma.

#### **4.2 *Healthcare setting***

- a) Community, primary care, secondary care outpatient and day treatment services, and tertiary care specialist services

#### **4.3 *Clinical management***

- a) The diagnosis of chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension in patients presenting at community optometrists and

those referred to hospital eye services using one or more of the tests below:

- measurement of intraocular pressure
- visual field test
- optic nerve head assessment
- anterior chamber angle assessment.

b) The appropriate use of pharmacological interventions, for example effectiveness, cost effectiveness, initiation and duration of treatment. Pharmacological treatments considered will include:

- eye drops
  - beta blockers
  - prostaglandin related drugs
  - sympathomimetics
  - carbonic anhydrase inhibitors
  - miotics
- systemic medications
  - carbonic anhydrase inhibitors

Note that guideline recommendations will normally fall within licensed indications; exceptionally, and only where clearly supported by evidence, use outside a licensed indication may be recommended. The guideline will assume that prescribers will use a drug's summary of product characteristics to inform their decisions for individual patients.

- c) The effectiveness of penetrating and nonpenetrating surgical drainage procedures with and without pharmacological augmentation or drainage devices.
- d) The effectiveness of postsurgical drain manipulation with and without the use of pharmacological augmentation.

- e) The effectiveness of laser procedures to facilitate aqueous outflow or reduce aqueous production.
- f) The information, education and support needs of patients to achieve treatment concordance will be considered.
- g) The most appropriate service models, where evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness is available.
- h) The guideline development group will consider making recommendations on the principal complementary and alternative interventions or approaches to care relevant to the guideline topic.
- i) The guideline development group will take reasonable steps to identify ineffective interventions and approaches to care. If robust and credible recommendations for re-positioning the intervention for optimal use, or changing the approach to care to make more efficient use of resources, can be made, they will be clearly stated. If the resources released are substantial, consideration will be given to listing such recommendations in the 'Key priorities for implementation' section of the guideline.
- j) Population based screening programmes for glaucoma are not within the remit of this guideline.

#### **4.4 Status**

##### **4.4.1 Scope**

This is the final scope.

##### **4.4.2 Guideline**

The development of the guideline recommendations will begin in June 2007.

Associated NICE Guidance

Medicines Concordance (in development) for publication December 2008

## 5 Further information

Information on the guideline development process is provided in:

- 'The guideline development process: an overview for stakeholders, the public and the NHS'
- 'The guidelines manual'.

These booklets are available as PDF files from the NICE website ([www.nice.org.uk/guidelinesmanual](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidelinesmanual)). Information on the progress of the guideline will also be available from the website.

## **Appendix: Referral from the Department of Health**

The Department of Health asked the Institute:

'To prepare a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of chronic open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension (raised intraocular pressure).

The guideline should include recommendations on the most appropriate service models where evidence of effectiveness is available.'