

Date and Time: Tuesday 1st April 2014

Minutes: Final

Guideline Development Group Meeting 2 – Low back pain

Place: NCGC office, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ

Present:

GDG members

Stephen Ward (SW) - Chair
Babak Arvin (BA) - Neurosurgeon
Ian Bernstein (IB) - General Practitioner
Patrick Hill (PH) - Consultant Clinical Psychologist
Gary MacFarlane (GM) - Chair (clinical) epidemiology
Mark Mason (MM) - Patient/Carer representative
Wendy Menon (WM) - Patient/ Carer representative
Philip Sell (PS) - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Simon Somerville (SS) - General Practitioner
Steven Vogel (SV) – Osteopath
David Walsh (DW) - Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist
Chris Wells (CW) - Consultant in Pain Medicine

NCGC

Kim Archer (KA) – Project Manager
Serena Carville (SC) – Associate Director,
Rhosyn Harris (RH) – Research Fellow
Kate Lovibond (KL) – Senior Health Economist
Qudsia Malik (QM) – Research Fellow
Paul Miller (PM) – Senior Information Scientist (present for note 7)
Silvia Rabar (SR) – Senior Research Fellow

Apologies:

Neil O’Connell (NOC) - Physiotherapist
Helen Taylor (HT) - Nurse Specialist

In attendance:

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| NICE Staff: Ben Doak (BD) | | |
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Notes

1. Introduction, apologies and minutes

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the low back pain guideline development group and apologies were noted from Neil O'Connell and Helen Taylor.

1.1 Minutes

Steve Vogel asked for his role to be recorded as Osteopath.

It was noted that the protocol for postural therapies had been agreed at GDG 1.

Following these changes, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

2. Declaration of Interest

All GDG members were reminded of the need to update their declarations of interest. The following update was declared:

Ian Bernstein has been commissioned by Pulse magazine to write an article on osteoarthritis. For this he will receive a payment of £150.

3. Definitions of low back pain and sciatica

It was agreed that definitions for both sciatica and low leg pain must be robust and that further discussion by the GDG is required.

4. Interventional procedures programme

Ben Doak gave a presentation detailing the Interventional Procedures programme and explained the implications of this for the low back pain guideline

5. Non-invasive interventions protocol

The GDG were advised that rather than having individual protocols, some non-invasive interventions have been grouped together in order to allow for comparison and to identify those interventions that are most effective. This protocol was reviewed and additions and amendments made where necessary

6. Health economics protocols and interpreting studies

KL gave a presentation detailing the cost effectiveness literature review protocol, interpreting multiple comparator studies and sensitivity analysis.

7. Review question

RH presented the clinical evidence for the review question 'What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of postural therapies in the management of non-specific low back pain and sciatica and KL presented the economic evidence. The group discussed the evidence and proposed a recommendation.

8. Protocols

SR gave a presentation on the introduction to risk prediction tools and how to evaluate them. Following on from this presentation, the GDG discussed and agreed the risk assessment protocol.

The GDG proposed that rather than performing a review of red flags, reference would be made to literature already published on the subject.

The remaining protocols are to be agreed at the next meeting.

9. Any other business

GDG members were advised that comments regarding the remaining protocols must be submitted ahead of the next GDG meeting.

Date, time and venue of the next meeting

Friday 9th May 2014, 10:00 – 16:00 NCGC office, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ