

10 April 2007

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Sent via email

Dear Consultee,

Health Technology Appraisal

Structural neuroimaging in first episode psychosis

I am writing to you again to ask for your support for the above appraisal. The deadline for submissions for the above appraisal passed on 7 March 2007, and the Institute did not receive a submission from any of the consultees. Please can you ensure that, if necessary, this letter is passed on to the most appropriate person in your organisation as we would value a response from you. Any information you can provide us will assist the NICE appraisal committee in developing their guidance.

In particular we would like to receive your views on:

- the potential place of this technology in current practice.
- advantages and disadvantages of this technique
- what other alternatives there might be
- any implementation issues

In addition the independent academic group who have been commissioned to conducting a review of the literature on clinical and cost effectiveness have identified a series of specific questions which they would like consultees to help with. To assist with the questions below, please find attached the final scope (appendix A) for this appraisal. The scope defines the disease, the patients and the technologies that are being assessed.

- We have accepted guidelines on the management of schizophrenia (NICE guidelines). How does the diagnostic workup, management and care of older people (eg >65 yrs) who develop psychosis differ from the NICE guidelines?

- What is the length of time (in days, weeks or months) between the initial home assessment of a psychotic person and the final diagnosis of an organic condition that is causing the psychosis? Does this differ by organic cause?
- Do you have any information on the sensitivity and specificity of CT or MRI scanning eg compared to a gold standard of post-mortem studies?
- Do you have any evidence on the effectiveness of antipsychotic medication in functional versus organic causes of psychosis?

If you can provide us with any information however brief on some of the points above we would be most grateful. Responses should be no longer than 2 sides of A4, and should be sent to the Project Manager by 4pm, Wednesday 16 May 2007.

If you are unsure about how to put together your response, or have any other questions or queries surrounding this request please contact Reetan Patel, Technology Appraisals Project Manager (020 7067 5946; reetan.patel@nice.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Carole Longson
Director, Centre for Health Technology Evaluation

Attachment

Final Scope – Appendix A