

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY APPRAISAL: NICE Health Technology  
Appraisal - Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD)**

**On  
Structural Neuroimaging for first episode psychosis**

**TO: NICE**

**FROM: NHS Quality  
Improvement Scotland**

- i) Whether you consider that all the relevant evidence has been taken into account?

Yes. Although the document is not referenced and thus it difficult to ascertain whether the sources of evidence were exhaustive, there are no glaring omissions.

- ii) Whether you consider that the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness are reasonable interpretations of the evidence?

Yes.

- iii) Whether you consider that the provisional recommendations of the Appraisal Committee are sound and constitute a suitable basis for the preparation of guidance to the NHS?

The key message is that structural neuroimaging for first episode psychosis offers no persuasive overall benefit. The research data available to date supports this. Importantly, routine imaging of this sort would not alter immediate treatment as things stand currently.

- iv) Whether you consider that there are any potential policy implications for SEHD?

The only issue that has a Scottish context is that of neuroimaging those at high genetic risk of developing a psychotic illness. My reading of the data available to date is that we are some way off recommending such a course of action as a matter of routine.

Reviewer 1

- i) Whether you consider that all the relevant evidence has been taken into account.

*A limited evidence base was noted. What was found seems to have been used.*

- ii) Whether you consider that the summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness are reasonable interpretations of the evidence.

*Given the evidence provided, the summaries appeared fair.*

- iii) Whether you consider that the provisional recommendations of the Appraisal Committee are sound and constitute a suitable basis for the preparation of guidance to the NHS.

*Yes – given the uncertainty of the evidence, a ‘no change’ seems reasonable*

- iv) Whether you consider that there are any potential policy implications for SGHD?

*I have consulted colleagues with policy responsibility for aspects of mental health. The view is that from a mental health policy perspective, not recommending structural neuro-imaging for all patients with first episode presentation of psychosis is acceptable for the time being given the evidence. There are therefore no policy implications at this time.*