

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

**On
CPAP for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea/hypoapnoea
syndrome**

TO: NICE

**FROM: NHS Quality
Improvement Scotland**

You asked me to comment under 4 headings:

1: As far as I can see all the relevant evidence that is currently available regarding the effectiveness of CPAP treatment in sleep apnoea has been carefully considered and taken into account

2: The summaries of both the clinical and cost effectiveness of CPAP are reasonable interpretations of the evidence

3: The provisional recommendations are fair and are justified by the available evidence base

4: There are potential policy implications in that there will be a need for easier access to sleep services throughout the UK as sleep apnoea is a common condition (affecting up to 4% of middle aged men and 2% of middle aged women) and is readily treatable with CPAP and as such more trained sleep nurses /technicians will be required to assess and monitor sleep apnoea patients. There will also be a need to identify sufficient funds to supply CPAP machines / humidifiers to those patients who are identified as having having sufficiently severe enough sleep apnoea to warrant treatment.

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Reviewer 1.

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

As far as I know, the relevant information, including the Cochrane review, has been taken into account

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

Yes from the evidence

- 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 recommendations on moderate/severe disease and on diagnosis seem suitable and in accordance with SIGN 73 (2003). The recommendation for people with mild disease may be less easy to interpret.

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

The implementation of these recommendations may require policy support

27 September 2007