

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Continuous positive airway pressure for the treatment of obstructive
sleep apnoea/hypopnoea syndrome**

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 395,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review the Appraisal Consultation Document of the health technology appraisal of Continuous positive airway pressure for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea/hypopnoea syndrome.

Generally this document is a good review of practice and in our view would not have an adverse affect on patient treatments if the recommendations were accepted.

The recommendation in section 1.3 of the report regarding the diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnoea/hypopnoea, the prescription of CPAP treatment and monitoring of the initial response of sleep medicine - seems vague. For example in some centres, they have anaesthetists and respiratory physicians who review patients with OSA and we would not want this practice to change. Is the term 'Specialist in sleep medicine' meant to be all encompassing? It would be helpful to clarify this point.