



National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Health Technology Appraisal

Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion for the treatment of diabetes (review)

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.

Response

The RCN welcomes the review of the guidance on the use of continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion for the treatment of diabetes. The protocol for the appraisal seems comprehensive.

Technology in current practice and implementation issues

There is a need for clarity regarding MDI regime for children. Would the appraisal consider whether children would still have to go through the MDI regime before being considered for pump therapy? This is in the light of the increase in diagnosis and the evidence from the Scottish Study Group that only 10-20% of children achieve a target HbA1c of 7.5% recommended in NICE guidelines for type 1 (SSGCDY Diabetic Medicine) 2006; 23:1216-1221.

We also endorse the plan to review whether CSII should be available for some people with type 2 diabetes, quality of life being the prime consideration.

Further, there appears to be some variation in practice, regarding support to patients in the community who have been recommended to have a pump in secondary care. Some PCTs have ring-fenced funds for this. Would the appraisal look at funding arrangements for this service, including what the funding should and should not cover (e.g. extra gadgets, replacement of old pumps with new pumps even though the old pumps are still usable)?