Putting patients & the public at the heart of NICE’s work

NICE is committed to involving patients, carers, service users and the public in the development of its guidance and other products. By involving the very people for whom the guidance will be relevant, we put the needs and preferences of patients, carers, service users and the public at the heart of our work. There are many ways patients, carers, service users and members of the public can get involved in NICE’s work (see over).

Our Guidance
The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health.

Public health – guidance on promoting good health and preventing ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sectors.

Health technologies – guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures within the NHS.

Clinical practice – guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.

NICE’s Public Involvement Programme
The Public Involvement Programme (PIP) at NICE is dedicated to developing and supporting opportunities to involve patients, carers, service users and the public in NICE’s work.

In addition to advising NICE and its partner organisations on approaches to patient and public involvement, we also:

- identify organisations representing patient, carer, service user or public interests that may have an interest in specific topics of NICE’s work
- provide training, support and information to those organisations and individuals interested in contributing to NICE’s work.

Patient and Public section of the NICE website – tell us what you think!
Our website now helps people find the patient and public versions of our guidance. Please have a look and tell us what you think - www.nice.org.uk/patientsandpublic/index.jsp
How can you get involved?

...as an individual?
Every committee and working group at NICE has at least two lay members. These positions are advertised on our website. Patient or lay experts are also invited to meetings to help committees understand more about the experiences of patients and members of the public. Individual members of the public can comment on draft guidance through our website.

...as a national organisation?
National patient or voluntary organisations can register as stakeholders for individual topics. This means they can help set the questions we are looking at, and comment on research evidence and draft recommendations. They may also be invited to nominate experts to attend meetings or identify people to apply to join working groups.

...in helping to put our guidance into practice?
The NHS is expected to follow recommendations in NICE guidance. NICE helps the NHS to do this. To find out what we are doing and how you can get involved, see the ‘Using guidance’ section of our website. If you are active in a patient or carer organisation, or in a voluntary or community group, you could use your networks and influence to publicise, encourage and support the use of NICE guidance.

...in shaping NICE policy?
From time to time, opportunities are advertised on our website and in the national press for membership of groups such as:
- NICE’s Board, which decides our strategic direction and the work we will do
- The Citizens Council, which advises the Board on ethical issues and society’s views.

Patient versions of documents
NICE produces plain English versions of its clinical guidance in its ‘Information for the Public’. These outline NICE’s recommendations in a way that is accessible and clear to patients, carers, service users and members of the public. Many hospitals and clinics hold copies of these. They can also be downloaded from the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk/patientsandpublic).

Patients Involved in NICE (PIN)
PIN is an independent group of patient organisations aiming to ensure that NICE decision-making is centred around the patient, their family and carers. If you would like to know more about PIN, including the peer support it offers please contact its Chair, Laura Weir at lweir@mssociety.org.uk.

To find out more:
- Visit our website at www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/patientsandpublic
- Email PIP@nice.org.uk
- Phone 0845 003 7780 and ask for the Public Involvement Programme