
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Review of NICE Technology Appraisal guidance no. 78; fluid filled thermal balloon and microwave endometrial ablation for menstrual bleeding

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 400,000 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.

Proposals to review Guidance – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to comment on proposals to review NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance No. 78; on the use of fluid filled thermal balloon and microwave endometrial ablation for the treatment of menstrual bleeding.

We agree with NICE's proposal to defer the review of the above guidance for another two years. It would make sense to review the evidence for the above technology appraisal guidance at the same time as when the Heavy Menstrual Bleeding guideline is reviewed in two years time. The Impedance-controlled endometrial ablation for menorrhagia technology appraisal guidance will be due for a review in 2008; this will allow all the heavy menstrual bleeding ablation technologies to be appraised at the same time – this therefore, seems like a practical and reasonable plan.