

A busy year so far – and more to come

The NICE Patient and Public Involvement Programme (PPIP) helps NICE teams and Collaborating Centres develop and support opportunities for patient and public involvement in the development of all NICE guidance, which includes:

- Clinical guidelines (recommendations on the treatment and care of people with specific conditions)
- Technology appraisals (guidance on the use of specific medicines, treatments, medical devices, procedures or diagnostic tests)
- Interventional procedures (guidance on how safe or well new procedures work)
- Public health interventions and programme guidance

In this issue we focus on NICE clinical guidelines, technology appraisals and interventional procedures.

NICE CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Changes to how NICE develops its clinical guidelines

In April 2006, NICE introduced changes to the way it develops its clinical guidelines. Further details can be found at www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=308552, but we have listed the key changes below:

- ***Calls for evidence***

In a more 'focused' call for evidence, stakeholders will be asked for details of data that contributes to individual clinical questions, rather than an open request for any evidence related to the topic.

- ***Classification of recommendations***

NICE guideline recommendations will now reflect how clinically important a recommendation is as well as considering the quality of evidence on which it is based. High priority or 'key' recommendations will still be identified, together with reasons for their selection.

- ***Consulting on drafts of the guideline***

There will now be one single consultation period of 8 weeks on the draft of a NICE guideline. This gives stakeholders longer to respond while shortening the overall guideline development process.

- ***Validating the guideline***

NICE will continue to use multidisciplinary panels (including lay people) to validate responses to stakeholders' comments, and to determine how easy it will be to implement the recommendations. NICE will also be commissioning external experts in statistics and health economics to review all future guidelines.

- ***Updating the guidelines***

NICE has introduced a flexible model for updating guidelines. The timing of an update will now depend on what new evidence has been published since the original guideline's publication, and how valid the original recommendations still are.

A patient guide to participating in developing a clinical guideline

A new guide takes people through the stages of producing a guideline and describes the opportunities that exist for people and organisations to get involved to ensure that patient and carer perspectives inform NICE guideline development. *Contributing to a NICE clinical guideline* will soon be available in hard copy as well as on the NICE website.

NICE INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES GUIDANCE

The Interventional Procedures team has been working hard with the PPIP to try and make the process more inclusive of patients and carers:

- there is now a *lay translation* of each procedure to clarify what it involves
- a *consultation questionnaire* is being piloted to help stakeholders take part in consultations more easily and effectively
- a new *How to guide* (available early summer) will provide advice and tips on how patients, carers and the public (individuals and organisations) can take part in consultations on the draft recommendations made by NICE.

Patient organisations have already done some great work to help ensure that patient views feed into interventional procedures, including:

- convening a patient group to give their views on a consultation
- sending a special edition newsletter to let patients know about a consultation
- advertising consultations on websites so that individual patients and carers can send in their views on a procedure.

To help patients and carers further inform the decision-making process, we aim to let patient organisations know the procedures NICE will be considering much earlier – up to six months ahead of consultation – to make it easier to plan your work on them. An Interventional Procedures Workshop for patient organisations on 12 June has had such a good response that we have booked a bigger venue. We also have other plans to include the views of patients who have had procedures, so watch this space!

For more information on any of the above, please contact Joanna Pearl on 020 7067 4767 or joanna.pearl@nice.org.uk.

THE NGO FORUM

In April 2006, the NGO Forum, a network for national non-profit organisations interested in contributing to effective public health policy and practice, moved from NICE to the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (RSH). We are sorry to say goodbye to Karen Bollan, who moved to the RSH to continue in her role as NGO Forum Manager. If you are interested in the future activities of the Forum, contact Karen at:

NGO Forum
38A St. George's Drive
London SW1V 4BH

NICE TECHNOLOGY APPRAISALS GUIDANCE

NICE is introducing a new rapid process for assessing drugs and other treatments which will be used alongside its existing technology appraisal process.

The *Single Technology Appraisal* process will be used initially to produce faster guidance on life-saving drugs which have already been licensed and on new medicines close to when they first become available. This quicker process will allow NICE to issue guidance in 32 to 39 weeks compared to the current 51 weeks.

The faster process will mean changes to the ways both patients and professionals are involved, including:

- the use of templates for evidence submitted for consideration by the committee. This is to help consultees provide targeted information on the issues that the committee is interested in and will hopefully save people time in producing their submissions
- NICE will only consult on draft guidance (sometimes referred to as the Appraisal Consultation Document) when the draft recommendations to the NHS are more restrictive than indicated by the market licence.

For more information about patient, carer and public involvement in either the existing or the new technology appraisal process, please contact Andreas Hasman on 020 7067 4778 or andreas.hasman@nice.org.uk.

PPIP training days and workshops in 2006

Guideline Development Group members:

12 September 5 December

For more information on PPIP training events, please contact **Joey Wong** on 020 7067 5849 or by email at joey.wong@nice.org.uk

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