

PPIP Newsletter

Patient and Public Involvement Programme (PPIP)

Issue 7 – December 2009

All change in the PPIP...

Welcome to the seventh **Patient and Public Involvement Programme** newsletter.

This has been a year of significant change for the PPIP. We are sad to announce that Dr Marcia Kelson, our founder and the Programme's Director from day one, has now left to pursue other interests. We are all hugely grateful to Marcia for providing us with such inspiration and leadership over the years. Marcia provided the PPIP with a strong academic basis, and always took such a pragmatic and sensible approach. We will miss her greatly but we wish her every happiness in the future.

As you can read below and on p2, NICE's remit continues to expand. We are keen for lay people to work with us in these new activities.

If you have any suggestions for how we can improve the support we provide to lay contributors to NICE guidance, do let us know by emailing us at ppip@nice.org.uk

Victoria Thomas, Associate Director, Patient and Public Involvement Programme

NICE and the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)

The QOF is a voluntary incentive scheme which rewards GP practices for high standards of patient care. It consists of groups (or 'menus') of indicators, against which practices score points according to their level of achievement.

NICE's first menu – produced this August – includes epilepsy, diabetes and learning disabilities. These topics will be considered by the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and NHS Employers at the next round of QOF negotiations.

NICE has also launched a new suggest a topic facility. This invites all stakeholders – including patient organisations – to suggest topics for new QOF indicators. The first wave of topic suggestion this autumn was met with enthusiasm from a range of patient organisations. There will be a further opportunity in spring 2010. For more information on the QOF, including more details on the topic suggestion facility, please see www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qof/

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Recognition for lay versions of NICE guidance

Two Understanding NICE guidance (UNG) documents, which explain NICE recommendations in lay language, have been recognised in the 2009 British Medical Association patient information awards. The UNG for the clinical guideline on **stroke** (CG68) was commended, and the leaflet on the interventional procedure '**Stent insertion for bleeding oesophageal varices**' (IPG265) was highly commended.

The judges commented that the interventional procedure leaflet was well written and that the list of suggested questions for patients to ask their doctors was very useful. They praised the leaflet as being 'a clear and concise treatment of the subject'. Professor Bruce Campbell, Chair of the Interventional Procedures Advisory Committee said: "Brilliant! You know my passion for good, clear information for patients and I am really delighted."

We see the UNGs as an essential part of spreading information about our guidance. Sincere thanks are due to the editors and the lay members of our groups and committees for their hard work on developing the UNGs.

Get involved

As well as taking on work on the Quality and Outcomes Framework (see over), NICE is also broadening its remit in other directions.

- **NHS Evidence** was launched in April 2009. This is a web-based service, providing easy access to high quality clinical and non-clinical information about health and social care. See www.evidence.nhs.uk for further information
- We are developing **Quality Standards** to help the NHS assess the quality of care it offers to patients. More information here – www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards
- A new work programme has been set up in the Centre for Health Technology Evaluation. **The Evaluation Pathway Programme for Medical Technologies** has been established to evaluate innovative medical technologies (including medical devices and diagnostics). NICE is planning to publish its first piece of new guidance on medical technologies late in 2010. Information is available here – www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/medicaltechnologies/medicaltechnologiesprogramme.jsp

As with all of NICE's work, the involvement of lay people will be integral to these new work programmes. We will keep you updated on the progress of these initiatives in the coming months.

Thank you!

We are very grateful to all of the lay people who contribute to our work, whether by commenting on our draft guidance or by contributing directly to its production.