

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Paddy Woods

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG5) 15/15

**Subject: NICE (Clinical) Guidelines NG5 –
Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use
of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes**

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**

All HSC Board Directors – for cascade to relevant staff

Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board – **for cascade to:**

Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant
Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**

Director of Public Health and Medical Director – for cascade
to relevant staff
Director of Nursing and AHPs – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**

Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff
Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant
staff
Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads
Directors of Social Services – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Finance – for cascade to relevant staff
AHP Leads – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority – **for
cascade to:** relevant independent healthcare establishments

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chair of Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chair of RQIA
NICE Implementation Facilitator NI
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

Summary of Contents: This guideline offers best practice advice on
the care of all people who are using medicines and also those who
are receiving suboptimal benefit from medicines. It updates and
replaces recommendation 1.4.2 in the NICE guideline on medicines
adherence (NICE Guidelines CG76)

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed
to:

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Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG5) 15/15

Date of Issue: 28 April 2015

Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 3/13

Superseded documents

HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 57/2009

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

As per circular. Generally, Clinical Guidelines should be
implemented within 12 months of endorsement.

Additional copies:

Available to download from

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance.htm>

Dear Colleagues

NICE Guideline NG5 - Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes (<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng5>)

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally endorsed it as applicable in Northern Ireland.

In accordance with the process outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 3/13 (http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_sqsd_3_13.pdf), the following actions should be taken

1. HSC Board / PHA
 - a. Identify a Professional Lead who will consider the commissioning implications of the Clinical Guideline and co-ordinate with any other relevant commissioning teams. This Lead will identify any areas where regional planning / investment / commissioning are required, or where there is material risk to safety or quality. These will then be actioned immediately through normal commissioning arrangements or through bespoke arrangements reflecting the nature of the issue / risk.
 - b. Ensure that relevant guidance is sent to the appropriate Family Practitioners.
 - c. Seek positive assurance from the HSC Trusts that the required initial actions have been undertaken within a 3 month period, and that the Guideline has been implemented within a further 9 months (unless otherwise notified by the HSC Trusts).
 - d. Where significant investment/ commissioning needs cannot be met within the usual timeframe, agree appropriate arrangements with HSC Trusts. Report to DHSSPS as required at 6 monthly accountability meetings.
2. HSC Trusts
 - a. Proceed with targeted dissemination, agree a clinical/management lead to coordinate implementation and consider what has to be done to achieve implementation using a risk based assessment and baseline review as appropriate to support planning. These initial actions should be undertaken within a three month period.
 - b. Implement the Guideline within a further 9 months (apart from any elements where significant issues have been raised with the HSC Board/PHA).
 - c. Provide positive assurances to the HSC Board that required initial actions have been taken within the 3 month planning period and that the Guideline has been implemented within a further 9 months, where appropriate.
 - d. Where significant investment/ commissioning needs cannot be met within the usual timeframe, notify the HSC Board/PHA at the earliest opportunity through the bi-monthly director level meetings and agree appropriate arrangements with them to achieve implementation.
3. RQIA
 - a. Disseminate the Guideline to the independent sector as appropriate.
4. HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs
 - a. Take account of this Guideline in training and other developments as appropriate.

To inform the planning process, please find attached details from the Departmental review including estimates of costs / savings based on the NICE costing template, where this is applicable. You should also consider and take account of other relevant Departmental policies and strategies in your planning, as well as any legislative / policy caveats identified in the course of the Departmental review.

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website (<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance.htm>).



Dr Paddy Woods
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Guidelines - NG5
Title	Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes
Summary of guidance	This guideline offers best practice advice on the care of all people who are using medicines and also those who are receiving suboptimal benefit from medicines.
Number of people expected to take up or benefit from the service / therapy	Unable to calculate for Northern Ireland.
Costs / savings associated with implementation	<p>Unable to calculate for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>NICE have been unable to provide an estimate of the cost associated with fully implementing this guidance. Overall, this guidance has the potential to be cost saving due to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in avoidable medicines-related hospital admissions. • A reduction in the number of potentially avoidable adverse drug reactions that occur during inpatient stays, resulting in a reduced length of stay in hospital. • A reduction in litigation costs.
Related strategically relevant DHSSPS policies	None
Inter-Departmental interest	None
Legislative / policy caveats	<p>This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.</p> <p>The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Department</p>

of Health document 'Reference Guide to Consent for Treatment or Examination' do not apply in NI, but work is under way to bring forward similar legislation for NI, incorporating mental capacity and mental health provisions. The DHSSPS guidance 'Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care (2003)', which is available on the DHSSPS website, gives advice on determining whether a person has capacity and on what action may be taken where the person lacks capacity. Available from: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/consent-referenceguide.pdf>

Where the guidance refers to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 supplementary code of practice on deprivation of liberty safeguards, Northern Ireland health professionals should refer to interim guidance on deprivation of liberty safeguards (2010). Available from: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/revised-circular-deprivation-of-liberty-safeguards-october-2010.pdf>

The Department of Health guidance 'Transition: getting it right for young people' does not apply in Northern Ireland. Provision of appropriate transition care for young people as they move from paediatric to adolescent and adult care will be taken forward in the Department's imminent review of paediatric services.