

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte
Mánnystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE IPG) 16/20

Subject: NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance – Bi-monthly HSC Communication – July & August 2020

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**
Director of Performance Management & Service Improvement
Director of Commissioning
Assistant Directors of Commissioning
Director of Integrated Care to also cascade to:
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 Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executive of Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority - for distribution to relevant independent healthcare establishments

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chief Executive of NIAS
Chief Executive of PCC
Chief Executive of NIBTS
Chief Executive of NIPEC
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Clinical Education Centre, BSO
NI NICE Implementation Facilitator
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

Summary of Contents:

The purpose of this circular is to advise HSC organisations of new interventional procedures guidance published by NICE in July & August 2020.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:
Quality Regulation and Improvement Unit
Department of Health
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SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE IPG) 16/20

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Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 4/14

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

For action

Implementation:

See point 5 below

Additional copies:

Available to download from
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

Dear Colleague

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE (NICE): INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES GUIDANCE – JULY & AUGUST 2020

Introduction

1. On 1 July 2006, as part of the Department's formal link with NICE, Northern Ireland joined England, Scotland and Wales as full participants in the NICE Interventional Procedures Programme. This means that NICE must be notified of any new interventional procedure being considered by a clinician, no longer in a training post, who has either not used the procedure before, or has only used it outside the HSC/NHS. Further information on the NICE Interventional Procedures Programme, and the local requirements for notifying an interventional procedure, are set out in circular HSC (SQSD) 4/14 (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/nice-interventional-procedures-programme-guidance>)

Definition and Types of Interventional Procedures Guidance

2. An Interventional Procedure is defined as any procedure used for diagnosis or treatment that involves incision; puncture; entry into a body cavity; or the use of ionising, electromagnetic or acoustic energy.
3. There are five types of interventional procedures guidance:
 - **Normal** – Apply normal consent, audit and clinical governance arrangements plus any additional recommendations, for example, on training, service delivery or data collection;
 - **Special** – Notify clinical governance leads, ensure patients understand the uncertainties referred to in the guidance, and audit and review clinical outcomes of all patients having the procedure plus any additional recommendations, for example, on training, service delivery or data collection;
 - **Other** – Guidance recommends a combination of normal or special arrangements;
 - **Research only** – use only in the context of a formal research protocol; and
 - **Do not use** – the procedure should not be used in the National Health Service (NHS) or the HSC in Northern Ireland.
4. Interventional procedures guidance is concerned only with safety and efficacy; there is no consideration of cost or cost-effectiveness. It simply recommends the circumstances in which a procedure should be used and confirms that the procedure does what it is intended to do. It does not recommend that the procedure ought to be used or that it ought to be funded.

New NICE Guidance on Interventional Procedures

5. NICE have recently published the following interventional procedures guidance:

Reference Number	Title of Guidance	Arrangements	Link	Date published
IPG674	Artificial iris insertion for acquired aniridia	Special	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg674	July 2020
IPG675	Artificial iris insertion for congenital aniridia	Research only	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg675	July 2020
IPG676	Transcranial magnetic stimulation for obsessive-compulsive disorder	Research only	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg676	August 2020
IPG677	Electrical stimulation to improve muscle strength in chronic respiratory conditions, chronic heart failure and chronic kidney disease	Other	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg677	August 2020
IPG678	Deep brain stimulation for refractory epilepsy in adults	Other	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg678	August 2020
IPG679	Implanted vagus nerve stimulation for treatment-resistant depression	Special	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg679	August 2020

6. A full list of all published NICE interventional procedures guidance can be found at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/Type/IP/Published>

The HSC sector should also note that:

- The Department expects HSC organisations to take account of NICE interventional procedures guidance, however, where NICE produces interventional procedures guidance with a “do not use” recommendation, these should be treated as essential and for rapid action. HSC Trusts will need to give positive assurance that these interventional procedures are not being used at the bi-monthly meetings with the HSC Board.
- Where interventional procedures guidance has been issued by NICE under the special, other or research only arrangements, it is the individual responsibility of the clinician undertaking the interventional procedure to take the appropriate actions as outlined in Paragraph 3 of this communication.
- It is important to notify NICE prior to undertaking any new interventional procedures as described in circular HSC (SQSD) 4/14. Where a procedure is notified to NICE for use in HSC, the Chair of the HSC Trust Committee must also inform the Department by email via the Standards and Guidelines NICE Mailbox: SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk**

10. **If a clinician is any doubt as to whether or not a procedure is new, then the best approach is to notify the procedure to the Programme using the process detailed in this circular.**

Further information

11. Clinicians in Northern Ireland are encouraged to register an interest on the NICE website in order to receive updates on the development of interventional procedures guidance relevant to their HSC practice.
12. Further information on the Interventional Procedures Programme can be found on the NICE website <http://www.nice.org.uk>. Enquiries about the Programme should be directed to the Programme coordinators at ip@nice.org.uk .
13. Any queries relating to this circular, or about Northern Ireland's participation in the Programme, should be directed to Quality Regulation & Improvement Unit, DoH, Room D1, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SQ, or e-mail SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk.



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