

From the Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Michael McBride**



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 18/08 CG 47**

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

Chief Executives of HSS Boards – **for distribution to:**  
Directors of Public Health  
Directors of Nursing  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services  
Directors of Primary Care – for cascade to prescribing and GP  
Advisors

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 9076 5615  
Fax: 028 90523206  
E-mail: [squ-  
niceguidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:squ-niceguidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**  
Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant  
staff

Date: 18 March 2008

General Practitioners

HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

#### **For Information**

Chairs of HSS Boards  
Chairs of HSC Trusts  
Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority  
Chief Officers HSC Councils  
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA  
Chief Executive, NIPPET  
Chief Executive, NIPEC  
Chief Executive, RMSC

Dear Colleagues

#### **Clinical Guideline 47 – Feverish Illness in Children**

NICE has produced guidance on the assessment & initial management of feverish illness in children. This guidance is designed to assist healthcare professionals in the initial assessment and immediate treatment of young children with fever presenting to primary or secondary care.

DHSSPS advises that this guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it as good practice guidance for the HSC sector.

The full clinical guideline is available for download at:


<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11010>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to take account of this guidance in the planning & delivery of services to children under 5 years presenting with feverish illness.
2. The guideline provides outline advice on the management of shock (para 7.5.1) but does not cover this issue in detail. Departmental advice is that, in situations where repeat boluses are required (for children under 5 years presenting with fever and shock to specialist paediatric care or an emergency department) the advice of a senior paediatric clinician should be sought urgently.
3. 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;
4. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11010> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
5. This guidance will be updated by NICE as needed.

Circular HSS (PPMD) (NICE)01/006 issued on 30 June 2006 provides further information on the Northern Ireland process for reviewing NICE guidance and further details on the local status of the Institute's guidance. This circular can be accessed at:

[http://dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice\\_guidance\\_01-06.pdf](http://dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf)



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