

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)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

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**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 10/09 TA138**

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

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: 5 February 2009

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

**Technology Appraisal No 138 - Corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma in adults and children aged 12 years and over**

The guidance covers the use of inhaled corticosteroids to treat adults and children aged 12 years and over with chronic asthma. It is written for people with chronic asthma but it may also be useful for their families or carers or anyone with an interest in the condition.

DHSSPS advises that this guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it for implementation in HSC.

The full NICE clinical guideline is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA138>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to put plans in place within 3 months of the date of issue of this E Mail alert to facilitate the implementation of this guidance.
2. This guidance will be reviewed by NICE in November 2012.
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/TA138> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
5. Nice has developed related guidance on asthma as follows
  - Asthma (children under 5) inhaler devices (TA10) down load at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA10>
  - Asthma (older children) – inhaler devices (TA138) download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA38>
  - Omalizumab for severe persistent allergic asthma (TA133) <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA133>
  - Asthma (in children)- corticosteroids (TA131) download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/TA131>

All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance>

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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