

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

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Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 19/09 CG 73

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: 2 March 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, NICPPET
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chief Executive, RMSC

Dear Colleagues

Clinical Guideline No 73 – Chronic Kidney Disease

The advice in the NICE guideline covers:

- the tests doctors should use to diagnose long-term kidney problems (chronic kidney disease)
- the best treatment and care for adults diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, and when they should be referred to specialist renal services
- the general management of chronic kidney disease from a variety of causes including diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

It does not specifically look at the care of:

- children (aged under 16 years)
- people receiving kidney dialysis or who have had a kidney transplant
- pregnant women with chronic kidney disease
- people with short-lasting damage to their kidneys.

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/CG73>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to take account of this guidance in their delivery of services to patients with chronic kidney disease;
2. 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.
3. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG73> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
4. This guidance will be updated by NICE as required.
5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

Lipid modification: cardiovascular risk assessment and the modification of blood lipids for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. NICE clinical guideline 67 (2008). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/CG067

Type 2 diabetes: the management of type 2 diabetes (update). NICE clinical guideline 66 (2008). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/CG066

Anaemia management in people with chronic kidney disease. NICE clinical guideline 39 (2006). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/CG039

Hypertension: management of hypertension in adults in primary care. NICE clinical guideline 34 (partial update of NICE clinical guideline 18) (2006). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/CG034

Brief interventions and referral for smoking cessation in primary care and other settings. NICE public health intervention guidance 1 (2006). Available for download: www.nice.org.uk/PH001

6. NICE is developing the following related guidance (details available from www.nice.org.uk)

Type 2 diabetes: newer agents for blood glucose control in type 2 diabetes (publication expected February 2009).

All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at:

[Safety, Quality and Standards | NICE Guidance | DHSSPS\(NI\)](#)

Circular HSS (PPMD) (NICE) 01/06 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael McBride', written in a cursive style.

DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer