

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 02/10

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Clinical Guideline No 85 –
Glaucoma: Diagnosis and Management of Chronic
Open Angle Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 02/2010

Date of Issue 15 June 2010

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**
Director of Performance Management & Service Improvement
Director of Commissioning
Assistant Directors of Commissioning
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
Director of Nursing

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
Consultant Ophthalmologists
Head of Optometry, RGH
Head of Orthoptics, RGH
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chair of Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
Chief Executive Patient and Client Council
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Chief Executive, NICPLD
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chair, RMSG

Summary of Contents:

The advice in the NICE guideline covers the diagnosis, treatment and care of:

- adults (18 years and over) with a diagnosis of the condition known as 'chronic open angle glaucoma'
- adults with a diagnosis of ocular hypertension (raised eye pressure)
- adults who are at a high risk of developing glaucoma.

Enquiries:

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

Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 29/09 – Rapid Response Report: Preventing delay to follow up for patients with glaucoma
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc-sqsd-28-09-preventing-delay-to-follow-up-for-patients-with-glaucoma.pdf>

See point 5 below for related NICE guidance

Superseded documents

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

To take account of this guidance in the planning and delivery of services to patient suffering from, or at high risk of developing,

Standards & Guidelines Quality Unit
DHSSPS
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Glaucoma

Additional copies:

Available to download from

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

Dear Colleagues

Clinical Guideline 85 – Glaucoma: Diagnosis and Management of Chronic Open Angle Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension

The advice in the NICE guideline covers the diagnosis, treatment and care of:

- adults (18 years and over) with a diagnosis of the condition known as 'chronic open angle glaucoma'
- adults with a diagnosis of ocular hypertension (raised eye pressure)
- adults who are at a high risk of developing glaucoma.

It does not specifically look at the treatment and care of:

1. people under 18 years
2. people with secondary glaucoma (glaucoma that is caused by other eye conditions, such as injury or inflammation)
3. people with, or at risk of, types of glaucoma known as 'angle closure glaucoma (primary or secondary)' or acute glaucoma
4. adults who have had glaucoma since birth or childhood.

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://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG85>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to take account of this guidance in the planning and delivery of services to patients aged 18 and over with ocular hypertension, suspected glaucoma or glaucoma.
2. The Health and Social Care Board will work on a regional basis with healthcare professionals to develop a care pathway for the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma which shall enhance the role of primary care and the capacity of secondary care to provide support and clinical leadership.
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://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG85> and

include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.

5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

Canaloplasty for primary open-angle glaucoma. NICE interventional procedure guidance 260 (2008). Available from www.nice.org.uk/IPG260

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

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

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://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf



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