

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Paddy Woods**



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**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 03/10 CG 80**

**Subject: Clinical Guideline No 80 – Breast Cancer  
(early & locally advanced)**

**Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 03/2010**

**Date of Issue: 27 July 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 all general practitioners

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
- 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 this guideline covers some of the tests and treatments that patients with early and locally advanced breast cancer should be offered.

**Enquiries:**

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

- Standards & Guidelines Quality Unit
- DHSSPS
- Room D1.4
- Castle Buildings
- Stormont Estate

**Related documents:**

See Bullet Points 5 & 6 below

**Superseded documents**

This guideline updates and replaces technology appraisals 109 (published September 2006), 108 (published September 2006) and 107 (published August 2006).

**Status of Contents:**

Action

**Implementation:**

To take account of this guidance in the delivery of services to patients with early or locally advanced breast cancer.

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BT4 3SQ

[SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Additional copies:**

Available to download from

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

**Dear Colleagues**

**Clinical Guideline No 80 – Breast Cancer (early & locally advanced)**

The advice in this guideline covers:

- some of the tests and treatments that patients with early and locally advanced breast cancer should be offered, in particular:
  - reducing the amount of surgery under your arm
  - breast reconstruction when breast conservation is not possible
  - chemotherapy and endocrine treatments
  - biological treatments.

It does not specifically look at:

- the care of patients with advanced breast cancer or those with rare or non-cancerous tumours of the breast
- the care of people who do not have breast cancer themselves but have a family history of the disease

NICE has produced separate advice for the care of patients with advanced breast cancer and people who have a family history of the disease.

This guideline updates the following technology appraisal:

- TA107 Breast cancer (early) – Trastuzumab (published by NICE in August 2006)
- TA108 Breast cancer (early) – paclitaxel (published by NICE in September 2006)
- TA109 Breast cancer (early) – docetaxel (published by NICE in September 2006)

NICE and the Department of Health, London, are currently reviewing the future position on updating technology appraisals within clinical guidelines however in the meantime, the technology appraisals remain available and should continue to be followed.

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

The full NICE guidance is available for download at:  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG80>

**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 early and locally advanced breast cancer;
2. The 'Mental Capacity Act 2005' and the Department of Health guidance 'Reference Guide to Consent for Examination or Treatment' do not apply in NI, but work is under way to bring forward mental capacity legislation for NI. The DHSSPS guidance 'Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care (2003)', which is available on the DHSSPS website, gives advice on determining whether a person has capacity and on what action may be taken where the person lacks capacity. This is available at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/consent-referenceguide.pdf>
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/CG80> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

**Published post 1 July 2006:**

- Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment. NICE clinical guideline 81 (2009). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/CG81](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG81)
- Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate and teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women. NICE technology appraisal guidance 161 (2008). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/TA161](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA161)
- Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene and strontium ranelate for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women. NICE technology appraisal guidance 160 (2008). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/TA160](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA160)

- Brachytherapy as the sole method of adjuvant radiotherapy for breast cancer after local excision. NICE interventional procedure guidance 268 (2008). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG268](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG268)
- Hormonal therapies for the adjuvant treatment of early oestrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer. NICE technology appraisal guidance 112 (2006). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/TA112](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA112)
- Familial breast cancer: the classification and care of women at risk of familial breast cancer in primary, secondary and tertiary care (partial update of NICE clinical guideline 14). NICE clinical guideline 41 (2006). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/CG41](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG41)

**Published pre 1 July 2006:**

- Endoscopic axillary lymph node retrieval for breast cancer. NICE interventional procedure guidance 147 (2005). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG147](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG147)
- Referral guidelines for suspected cancer. NICE clinical guideline 27 (2005). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/CG27](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG27)
- Interstitial laser therapy for breast cancer. NICE interventional procedure guidance 89 (2004). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG89](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG89)
- Improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer. Cancer service guidance (2004). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/csgsp](http://www.nice.org.uk/csgsp)
- Improving outcomes in breast cancer – manual update. Cancer service guidance (2002). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/csgbc](http://www.nice.org.uk/csgbc)

6. NICE is currently developing related guidance as follows:

- Osteoporosis: assessment of fracture risk and the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in individuals at high risk. NICE clinical guideline (publication date to be confirmed).

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) 01/06 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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P. Woods', written in black ink on a light-colored background.

**DR PADDY WOODS**  
**Deputy Chief Medical Officer**