

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Paddy Woods



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 04/10 CG 81

**Subject: Clinical Guideline No 81 – Advanced
Breast Cancer**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 04/2010

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 NICE clinical guideline offers guidance on best practice and describes the tests, treatment, care and support that patients with 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

Related documents:

See Bullet Points 5 & 6 below

Superseded documents

This guidance updates and replaces NICE technology appraisal guidance 62 (published May 2003), 54 (published December 2002) and 30 (published September 2001).

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

To take account of this guidance in the delivery of patients with advanced breast cancer.

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BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

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 81 – Advanced Breast Cancer

This guidance updates and replaces NICE technology appraisal guidance 62 (published May 2003), 54 (published December 2002) and 30 (published September 2001).

Over recent years there have been important developments in the investigation and management of patients with advanced breast cancer, including new chemotherapy, and biological and hormonal agents.

The NICE clinical guideline offers guidance on best practice and describes the tests, treatment, care and support that patients with advanced breast cancer should be offered. The key priorities for implementation within the guideline are:

- diagnosis and assessment
- systematic disease-modifying therapy
- supportive care
- managing complications

It does not specifically describe the care of patients with early breast cancer or those with rare or non-cancerous tumours of the breast.

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/CG81>

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 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/CG81> and include implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.

5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

Published post 1 July 2006:

- Early and locally advanced breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. NICE CG 80 (2009). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG80>
- Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate and teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women (update of TA 87), NICE TA 161 (2008). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA161>
- Alendronate, etidronate, risedronate, raloxifene and strontium ranelate for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women. NICE TA 160 (2008). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA160>
- Gemcitabine for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. NICE TA 116 (2007). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA116>
- 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 CG 41(2006). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG41>

Published pre 1 July 2006:

- Referral guidelines for suspected cancer. NICE CG27 (2005). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG27>
- Improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer. Cancer service guidance (2004). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CSGSP>
- Improving outcomes in breast cancer – manual update. Cancer service guidance (2002). Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CSGBC>

- Guidance on the use of trastuzumab for the treatment of advanced breast cancer. NICE TA34 (2002) Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA34>
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



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