

From the Acting Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Elizabeth Mitchell**



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

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 29/09 TA 151**

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Technology Appraisal No 151 –  
Diabetes – Insulin Pump Therapy**  
(Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion for the  
treatment of Diabetes Mellitus)

**For action by:**

Chief Executives of HSC Board – **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

HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

**For Information to:**

Chair of HSC Board  
Chief Executive Public Health Agency  
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
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

**Summary of Contents:**

Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII or  
'insulin pump') therapy is recommended as a  
treatment option for adults and children 12 years  
and older with type 1 diabetes mellitus when certain criteria are met.

**Enquiries:**

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

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**Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 29/2009**

**Date of Issue: 25 June 2009**

**Related documents:**

See bullet point 5 below

**Superseded documents**

This guidance replaces technology appraisal guidance 57 issued by  
NICE in February 2003.

**Status of Contents:**

Action

**Implementation:**

Within 3 months

**Additional copies:**

Available to download from

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

**Dear Colleagues**

## **Technology Appraisal No 151 – Diabetes – Insulin Pump Therapy**

This guidance replaces NICE technology appraisal guidance 57 issued in February 2003.

The review and re-appraisal of the use of continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion for the treatment of diabetes mellitus has resulted in a change in the guidance. Specifically there has been a change to the recommendation on the use of continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion in children younger than 12 years with type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion or 'insulin pump' therapy is recommended as a possible treatment for adults and children 12 years and over with type 1 diabetes mellitus if:

- attempts to reach target haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) levels with multiple daily injections result in the person having 'disabling hypoglycaemia', or
- HbA1c levels have remained high (8.5% or above) with multiple daily injections (including using long-acting insulin analogues if appropriate) despite the person and/or their carer carefully trying to manage their diabetes.

Insulin pump therapy is recommended as a possible treatment for children under 12 years with type 1 diabetes mellitus if treatment with multiple daily injections is not practical or is not considered appropriate. Children who use insulin pump therapy should have a trial of multiple daily injections when they are between the age of 12 and 18 years.

'Disabling hypoglycaemia' is when hypoglycaemic episodes occur frequently or without warning so that the person is constantly anxious about another episode occurring, which has a negative impact on their quality of life.

Insulin pump therapy should only be started by a trained specialist team. This team should include a doctor who specialises in insulin pump therapy, a diabetes nurse and a dietitian (someone who can give specialist advice on diet). This team should provide structured education programmes and advice on diet, lifestyle and exercise that is suitable for people using insulin pumps.

Insulin pump therapy should only be continued in adults and children 12 years and over if there has been a sustained improvement in the control of their blood glucose levels. This should be shown by a decrease in the person's HbA1c levels or by the person having fewer hypoglycaemic episodes. Such goals should be set by the doctor through discussion with the person or their carer.

Insulin pump therapy is not recommended for people with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

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

The full NICE technology appraisal is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA151>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to put plans in place within 3 months of this e;mail alert, to facilitate implementation of this guidance.
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/TA151> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
4. This guidance will be considered for review by NICE in February 2011.
5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

### **Published by NICE before July 2006**

Type 1 diabetes: diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in children, young people and adults. NICE clinical guideline 15 (2004). Available for download at: [www.nice.org.uk/CG015](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG015)

Type 2 diabetes: prevention and management of foot problems. NICE clinical guideline 10 (2004). Available for download at : [www.nice.org.uk/CG010](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG010)

Pancreatic islet cell transplantation. NICE interventional procedure guidance 13 (2003). Available for download at : [www.nice.org.uk/IPG013](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG013)

Guidance on the use of patient-education models for diabetes. NICE technology appraisal guidance 60 (2003). Available for download at: [www.nice.org.uk/TA060](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA060)

Guidance on the use of long-acting insulin analogues for the treatment of diabetes – insulin glargine. NICE technology appraisal guidance 53 (2002). Available for download at : [www.nice.org.uk/TA053](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA053)

### **Published by NICE on or after July 2006**

Inhaled insulin for the treatment of diabetes (types 1 and 2). NICE technology appraisal guidance 113 (2006). Available for download at [www.nice.org.uk/TA113](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA113)

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

Diabetes in pregnancy: management of diabetes and its complications from pre-conception to the postnatal period. NICE clinical guideline 63 (2008). Available For download at : [www.nice.org.uk/CG063](http://www.nice.org.uk/CG063)

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

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