

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 30/08 TA 131

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

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

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9076 5615
Fax: 028 90523206
E-mail: [sgu-
niceguidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:sgu-niceguidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

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 July 2008

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, NIPPET
Chief Executive, NIPEC
Chief Executive, RMSC

Dear Colleagues

Technology Appraisal No 131 – Inhaled Corticosteroids for the Treatment of Chronic Asthma in Children Under the Age of 12 Years

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

This guidance should be read in conjunction with inhaler devices for routine treatment of chronic asthma in older children (aged 5-15 years)(NICE technology appraisal guidance 38) and guidance on the use of inhaler systems (devices) in children under the age of 5 years with chronic asthma (NICE technology appraisal guidance 10). The future discontinuation of CFC containing inhaler devices will affect the range of devices available, but does not affect the guidance.

For children under the age of 12 years with chronic asthma in whom treatment with an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) is considered inappropriate, the least costly product that is suitable for an individual child (taking into consideration technology appraisal guidance 38 and 10), within its marketing authorisation, is recommended.

For children under the age of 12 years with chronic asthma in whom treatment with an ICS and long-acting beta-2 agonist is considered appropriate, the following apply:

- The use of a combination device within its marketing authorisation is recommended as an option.
- The decision to use a combination device or the two agents in separate devices should be made on an individual basis, taking into consideration therapeutic need and the likelihood of treatment adherence.

If a combination device is chosen, then the least costly device that is suitable for the individual child is recommended.

The full NICE technology appraisal is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11892>

NICE has published related guidance on the treatment of asthma in children (NICE TA10 & 38) available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11400>

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11450>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to put plans in place, within 3 months of the date of issue of this e-mail alert, to facilitate the 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/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11892> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.

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)01/006 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

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

DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer