

From the Acting 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**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 34/09 CG 68

**Subject: Clinical Guideline No 68 – Stroke
and Transient Ischaemic Attack**

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

General Practitioners

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:

This guideline covers interventions in the acute stage of a stroke ('acute stroke') or TIA. Most of the recommendations relate to interventions in the first 48 hours after onset of symptoms, although some interventions up to 2 weeks are covered.

Enquiries:

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

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Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 34/2009

Date of Issue: 15 July 2009

Related documents:

See bullet points 5 and 6 below

Superseded documents

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

Additional copies:

Available to download from

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

Dear Colleagues

Clinical Guideline No 68 – Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack

The advice in the NICE guideline covers:

- how healthcare professionals should recognise the symptoms of a stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA) and make a diagnosis quickly
- when people should have a brain scan and other types of scan
- specialist care for people in the first 2 weeks after a stroke
- drug treatments for people who have had a stroke
- surgery for people who have had a stroke.

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/CG68>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to take account of this guidance in the planning and delivery of services to patients suffering Stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attack;
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://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG68> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
4. This guidance is expected to be considered for review by NICE in July 2011;
5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

Lipid modification: cardiovascular risk assessment and the modification of blood lipids for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease. NICE clinical guideline 67 (2008). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/CG067

Alteplase for the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke. NICE technology appraisal 122 (2007). Available for download at : www.nice.org.uk/TA122

Hypertension: management of hypertension in adults in primary care. NICE clinical guideline 34 (2006). Available for download at: www.nice.org.uk/CG034

Nutrition support in adults: oral nutrition support, enteral tube feeding and parenteral

nutrition. NICE clinical guideline 32 (2006). Available for download at:
www.nice.org.uk/CG032

Clopidogrel and modified-release dipyridamole in the prevention of occlusive vascular events. NICE technology appraisal 90 (2005). Available for download at:
www.nice.org.uk/TA090

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

6. NICE is currently developing related guidance on venous thromboembolism in all hospital patients which is expected to be published in September 2009.

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



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