

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, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 35/09 CG 69

**Subject: Clinical Guideline No 69 –
Respiratory Tract Infections**

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 NICE clinical guideline offers best practice advice on the care of adults and children (3 months and older) with RTIs, for whom immediate antibiotic prescribing is not indicated.

Enquiries:

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

- Standards & Guidelines Unit
- DHSSPS
- Room D1.4
- Castle Buildings
- Stormont
- BELFAST
- BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 35/2009

Date of Issue: 10 July 2009

Related documents:

See bullet point 5 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Superseded documents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 69 – Respiratory Tract Infections

This guidance is about the care and treatment of people with respiratory tract infections (RTIs). It is written for adults and parents of children aged 3 months and older, but it may also be useful for families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

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/CG69>

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 from Respiratory Tract Infections.
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. This guidance is expected to be considered for review by NICE in July 2011.
4. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG69> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
5. NICE has published related guidance as follows:

Advice about managing symptoms including fever (particularly analgesics and antipyretics). For information about fever in children younger than 5 years, refer to 'Feverish illness in children'. NICE clinical guideline 47 (2007). <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG47>

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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