

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 37/08 PHG 4

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

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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: 18 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

NICE Public Health Intervention Guideline No PH 4 – Substance Misuse

The NICE guidance on community-based interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people calls for anyone who works with young people to identify those who are vulnerable to drug problems and intervene at the earliest opportunity. It gives advice on stepping in and helping young people access the right support and services and outlines effective individual, family and group-based support which can improve motivation, family interaction and parenting skills. It is for HSC and non HSC

practitioners and others who have a direct or indirect role in, and responsibility for, reducing substance misuse. This includes those working in local authorities and the education, voluntary, community, social care, youth and criminal justice sectors.

Community-based interventions are defined as interventions or small-scale programmes delivered in community settings, such as schools and youth services. They aim to change the risk factors for the target population. For the purposes of this guidance, substance misuse is defined as intoxication by, or regular excessive consumption of and/or dependence on, psychoactive substances, leading to social, psychological, physical or legal problems. It includes problematic use of both legal and illegal drugs (including alcohol when used in combination with other substances).

Vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people aged under 25 who are at risk of misusing substances include:

- Those whose family members misuse substances.
- Those with behavioural, mental health or social problems.
- Those excluded from school and truants.
- Young offenders.
- Looked after children.
- Those who are homeless.
- Those involved in commercial sex work.
- Those from some black and minority ethnic groups.

DHSSPS advises that this guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it as good practice guidance for the HSC sector.

The full public health guideline is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11379>

NICE has developed related guidance available for download at:

Methadone and buprenorphine for the management of opioid dependence TA 114

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11606>

Naltrexone for the management of opioid dependence NICE TA 115

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11604>

Smoking cessation PHI 1

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11375>

Drug misuse: psychosocial interventions CG 51

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11812#>

Drug Misuse: opioid detoxification CG 52

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11813>

Behaviour change PHG 6

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11868>

The HSC sector also should note that;

- 1) 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=11379> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
- 2) This guidance will be updated by NICE as required;
- 3) This guidance should be considered in the context of the *Investing for Health* strategy which sets out broad policy for improving population health and reducing health inequalities in Northern Ireland. The guidance should also be considered in the context of the relevant Northern Ireland strategies, programmes, targets and actions underpinning *Investing for Health*.

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



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