

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Sloan Harper**



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

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

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 38/09 CSGSTIM**

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Cancer Services Guideline CSGSTIM  
– Improving Outcomes in people with Skin  
Tumours Including Melanoma**

**Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 38/2009**

**Date of Issue: 30 June 2009**

**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:**

The NICE clinical guideline on skin tumours outlines how healthcare services for people with skin tumours should be organized. The key recommendations are set out in this circular.

**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](mailto:SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Related documents:**

**Superseded documents**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**

**Cancer Services No CSGSTIM – Improving Outcomes for People with Skin Tumours Including Melanoma**

The NICE clinical guideline on skin tumours outlines how healthcare services for people with skin tumours should be organised. The key recommendations are:

- Cancer networks should establish two levels of multidisciplinary teams to care for patients.
- Patients with a precancerous lesion should either be treated by their GP or referred.
- The care of patients with low-risk basal cell carcinoma may be managed by doctors in the community or at a local hospital.
- Patients who need specialist diagnosis should be referred to a doctor trained to diagnose skin cancer.
- Skin cancer teams should work to agree protocols.
- Protocols should cover the management of care for people in high-risk or special groups.
- Follow-up care should be agreed.
- All patients and carers should have access to high quality information.
- Information should be collected.
- More research should be done.

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

The full NICE cancer services guideline is available for download at:

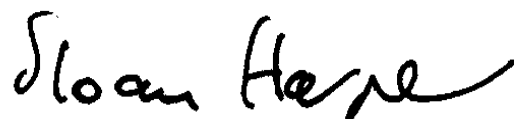
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CSGSTIM>

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 with skin tumours including melanoma.
- 2. This guidance should be taken forward by HSC organisations within the context of existing resources and take account of competing funding priorities.**
3. 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.
4. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CSGSTIM> 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) 01/06 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://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice\\_guidance\\_01-06.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sloan Harper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**DR SLOAN HARPER**  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer