

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) 47/09 TA 167**

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Technology Appraisal No 167 –  
Endovascular Stent Grafts for the Treatment of  
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms**

**Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 47/2009**

**Date of Issue: 6 August 2009**

**For action by:**

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**  
Director of Performance Management & Service Improvement  
Director of Commissioning  
Assistant Directors of Commissioning  
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management  
Family Practitioner Services Leads

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**  
Director of Public Health  
Director of Nursing

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**  
Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff  
Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant staff  
Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff  
HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

**For Information to:**

Chair of HSC Board  
Chair of Public Health Agency  
Chairs of HSC Trusts  
Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority  
Chief Executive Patient and Client Council  
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA  
Chief Executive, NICPLD  
Chief Executive, NIPEC  
Chair, RMSG

**Summary of Contents:**

This guidance refers to the use of endovascular stent-grafts or open surgical repair only for the treatment of infra-renal abdominal aortic aneurysms. This guidance should be read in conjunction with stent-graft placement in abdominal aortic aneurysm (NICE Interventional Procedure Guidance 163).

**Enquiries:**

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:  
Standards & Guidelines Unit  
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Stormont  
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BT4 3SQ

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

**Related documents:**

See Bullet Point 5 below

**Superseded documents**

None

**Status of Contents:**

Action

**Implementation:**

Put plans in place within 3 months

**Additional copies:**

Available to download from

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

**Dear Colleagues**

## **Technology Appraisal No 167 – Endovascular Stent Grafts for the Treatment of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms**

This guidance refers to the use of endovascular stent-grafts or open surgical repair only for the treatment of infra-renal abdominal aortic aneurysms. This guidance should be read in conjunction with stent-graft placement in abdominal aortic aneurysm (NICE Interventional Procedure Guidance 163).

Endovascular stent-grafts are recommended as a possible treatment for people with abdominal aortic aneurysms if:

- the aneurysm is below their kidney and has not burst,
- surgery is appropriate, and
- the person and their specialist have discussed the risks and benefits of this and other procedures and decided that endovascular stent-grafts are appropriate.

Aneurysm repair using endovascular stent-grafts should only be carried out in specialist centres by staff experienced in treating people with abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Endovascular stent-grafts are not recommended for people whose abdominal aortic aneurysm has burst unless they are taking part in research with the data collected in national databases to help improve patient care.

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

The full NICE guidance is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA167>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to put plans in place within 3 months of this e-mail alert, to facilitate implementation of this guidance.
2. This guidance will be considered for review by NICE in January 2012.
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://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA167> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
5. NICE has developed related guidance as follows
  - Laparoscopic repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms. NICE interventional procedure guidance 229 (2007). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG229](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG229)

- Stent-graft placement in abdominal aortic aneurysm. NICE interventional procedure guidance 163 (2006). Available from [www.nice.org.uk/IPG163](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG163)

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://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice\\_guidance\\_01-06.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf)



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