

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Sloan Harper



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 48/09 TA 170

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: Technology Appraisal No 170 –
Rivaroxaban for the Prevention of Venous
Thromboembolism after Total Hip or Knee
Replacement in Adults**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 48/2009

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 – for cascade to all
General Practitioners

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 rivaroxaban for reducing the risk of thromboembolism in adults who have surgery to replace their hip or knee joints. It does not cover using rivaroxaban to reduce the risk of venous thromboembolism in adults who have had other types of surgery.

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

Related documents:

See Bullet Points 5 and 6 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Superseded documents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 170 – Rivaroxaban for the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism after Total Hip or Total Knee Replacement in Adults

Rivaroxaban is recommended as a possible treatment to reduce the risk of venous thromboembolism in adults who have surgery to replace their hip or knee. This guidance is about when rivaroxaban should be used to reduce the risk of thromboembolism in adults who have surgery to replace their hip or knee joints. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It does not cover using rivaroxaban to reduce the risk of venous thromboembolism in adults who have had other types of surgery. It is written for people who are having or have had an operation to replace their hip or knee joints but it may also be useful for their families or carers or anyone with an interest in the topic.

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://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA170>

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 February 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://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA170> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.
5. NICE has developed related guidance as follows

Dabigatran etexilate for the prevention of venous thromboembolism after hip or knee replacement surgery in adults. NICE TA 157 (2008). Available from www.nice.org.uk/TA157

Venous thromboembolism: reducing the risk of venous thromboembolism (deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) in inpatients undergoing surgery. NICE CG 46 (2007). Available from www.nice.org.uk/CG046

6. NICE is currently developing guidance on the following:

Venous thromboembolism – prevention: reducing the risk of venous thromboembolism (deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) in patients

admitted to hospital. NICE clinical guideline (publication expected 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://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