

From the Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Michael McBride**



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

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

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 55/08 CG 65**

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

Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 028 9076 5615  
Fax: 028 90523206  
E-mail: [sgu-  
niceguidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:sgu-niceguidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

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: 21 October 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 Clinical Guideline No 62 – Antenatal Care**

#### **The advice in the NICE guideline covers:**

- the routine care that all healthy women can expect to receive during their pregnancy.

#### **It does not specifically look at:**

women who are pregnant with more than one baby, women with certain medical conditions or women who develop a health problem during their pregnancy.

DHSSPS advises that this appraisal guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it for implementation in HSC. However, the reference to 'informed choice as to whether they wish to continue with the pregnancy' should be read as taking account of the NI legal position.

The full NICE clinical guideline is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG62>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. This is an update of clinical guideline No 6 – Antenatal Care: Routine Care for the Healthy Pregnant Woman, produced by NICE in October 2003;
2. The Department expects HSC organisations to take account of this guidance in the planning and delivery of services to pregnant women;
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. This guideline will be reviewed by NICE in March 2010;
5. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG62> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
6. NICE has developed related guidance on pregnancy and this can be accessed at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG45>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG13>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG63>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG70>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG55>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH11>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG37>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA156>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH10>  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH1>

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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf)



**DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE**  
**Chief Medical Officer**