

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 45/09 CG 75

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 45/2009

Subject: Clinical Guideline No 75 – Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression: Diagnosis and Management of Adults at risk of and with Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression

Date of Issue: 22 September 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

Related documents:

See Bullet Point 5 below

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

Superseded documents

None

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

Status of Contents:

Action

Summary of Contents:

The Guideline is published in recognition that patients with metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC) sometimes suffer delays and avoidable disability. It considers the available evidence and makes recommendations (to ensure that facilities are available and treatment is co-ordinated) to promote best practice and whenever possible to prevent paralysis from adversely affecting the quality of life for people with metastatic cancer.

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

Implementation:

To take account of this guidance in delivery of services to patients who are at risk of and with MSCC.



SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Additional copies:

Available to download from

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

Dear Colleagues

Clinical Guideline No 75 – Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression: Diagnosis and Management of Adults at risk of and with Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression

The Guideline is published in recognition that patients with metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC) sometimes suffer delays and avoidable disability. It considers the available evidence and makes recommendations (to ensure that facilities are available and treatment is co-ordinated) to promote best practice and whenever possible to prevent paralysis from adversely affecting the quality of life for people with metastatic cancer.

The advice in the NICE guideline covers:

- adults who have, or are at risk of developing, metastatic spinal cord compression because they have cancer elsewhere in their body that has spread to their spine

It does not specifically look at:

- children, or adults whose cancer started in the spine or who have compression of the spinal cord that is not caused by cancer.

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

The full NICE clinical guideline is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG75>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to take account of this guidance in their delivery of services to patients who are at risk of and with metastatic spinal cord compression.
2. 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;
3. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG75> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
4. This guidance will be considered for review by NICE as and when required.
5. NICE has published related guidance which can be accessed at:
 - cancer service guidance on improving outcomes for people with brain and other CNS tumours, for download at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CSGBraincns>
 - people with sarcoma for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CSGSarcoma>
 - support and palliative care for adults with cancer, for download at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CSGSP>

- clinical guidelines on faecal incontinence (CG49), for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG49>
- venous thromboembolism (CG46), for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG46>
- the management of pressure ulcers (CG29), for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG29>
- referral guidelines for suspected cancer (CG27) for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG27>
- pressure-relieving devices for the prevention of pressure ulcers (CG7) for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG7>
- interventional procedure guidance on vertebroplasty (IPG12) for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/IPG12>
- kyphoplasty (IPG166) for download at <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/IPG166>

All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance.htm>

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://dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf



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