

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 22/08 TA 124

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter 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: 1 April 2008

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

Technology Appraisal TA 124 – Pemetrexed for Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

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

Pemetrexed is not recommended for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer.

The full NICE technology appraisal is available for download at:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11823>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. People currently receiving pemetrexed should have the option to continue therapy until they and their clinicians consider it appropriate to stop.
2. NICE have concluded that pemetrexed would not be a cost-effective use of NHS resources when compared with either docetaxel or best supportive care. After considering all the evidence available, NICE concluded that pemetrexed could not be recommended for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer.
3. The Department expects HSC organisations to comply with the NICE guidance with immediate effect. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11823> and include a costing statement and audit criteria to monitor local practice.

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



DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer