

Processing of Technology Appraisal Guidance published by the  
National Institute for Clinical Excellence

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This process supersedes that published by the Health Technology Board for Scotland (HTBS) in October 2002. It applies to National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisal Guidance issued after 1 August 2003.

1.2 In recognition of the needs and expectations of decision-makers in Scotland, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) advises on all Technology Appraisal Guidance published by NICE after 1 May 2001. NHS QIS considers the suitability of the NICE Guidance for Scotland in the light of the following contextual differences:

Principles and values of NHSScotland

Epidemiology (frequency, distribution and stage at presentation)

Structure and provision of services in Scotland

Other implications for NHSScotland, e.g. rural issues, predicted uptake, existing advice from the Scottish Medicines Consortium.

1.3 NHS QIS will issue the NICE Guidance identifying any contextual differences via email and the web.

1.4 This new procedure does not differentiate between the issued and developed Guidance named in the previous procedure and allows NHS QIS to process all NICE Guidance for Scotland before it is finalised by NICE. It arises following six months experience of issuing the NICE Guidance via email alerts.

## **2. Process**

### **2.1 Review of draft NICE Guidance documents**

When the NICE Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) is issued (at least thirteen weeks before the NICE Guidance is published if there is no appeal), NHS QIS staff work with three to five experts to comment on its content and input to the NICE process. When the Final Appraisal Determination (FAD) is released for comment (at least five weeks before the NICE Guidance is published if there is no appeal), the FAD will be reviewed by the same group of experts for any potentially relevant contextual differences in Scotland (as outlined in section 1.2).

### **2.2 Expert involvement**

Sources of experts include – but are not limited to – those from Managed Clinical Networks, Royal Colleges, Area Drugs and Therapeutic Committees, SIGN guideline groups, Pharmatrak, Scottish Executive Health Department, NHS QIS Project Groups and patient representative or voluntary groups. Experts are required to sign a confidentiality undertaking and register all interests.

### **2.3 Processed Guidance**

NHS QIS issues the NICE Guidance to Scotland via email with a message outlining any implications for Scotland. The goal is to issue this email to coincide with publication of the NICE Guidance. The NHS QIS website will also indicate that the NICE Guidance has been issued in Scotland and the text of the email is posted there.

2.3.1 This email is sent to all NHS Board and Trust Chief Executives, Directors of Public Health and Chief Pharmacists, who are expected to cascade the NICE Guidance appropriately.

2.3.2 Using the subscription section on the NHS QIS website (<http://www.htbs.co.uk/subscriptions/index.asp?did=398>), anyone can request to receive the NICE Guidance and associated NHS QIS email.