The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Professor Peter Littlejohns
Clinical and Public Health Director
NICE....what is it?

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
NICE aims to:

Identify good clinical and public health practice using the best available evidence

Create standards for the NHS and local health communities

Help resolve uncertainty for the public, patients and health professionals

Identify the evidence gaps ……….. help fill them
NICE...what it does

NICE Board

Centre for Technology Evaluation
- Technology appraisals
- Interventional Procedures
- Decision Support
- Borderline Substances

Centre for Clinical Practice
- Service delivery guidelines
- Clinical practice guidelines

Centre for Public Health Excellence
- Public Health interventions
- Public Health programmes
NICE approach to making decisions

- Process of reaching decision needs to be transparent, inclusive, reliable and valid
- Interpretation of evidence requires scientific and social value judgments
- Being explicit about values is part of the transparency of decision making
- Values need to be tested with the wider community
Scientific Value Judgements

- the strength, reliability and generalisability of the data from research studies;
- the validity of the assumptions used in economic modelling
William Blake – 19th Century English Poet and Artist

“God forbid that truth should be confined to mathematical demonstration”
NICE approach to social values

• Take into account Secretary of State’s directions
• Use a specific Health Economic Methodology
• Stakeholder Membership on all Advisory Committees
• Consultation with all Stakeholders
• Establish Citizens Council
• R&D
Voices from as wide a community as possible....
Cost Effectiveness

Cost per QALY

£30,000

Probability of rejection
Guidelines programme

NCC CANCER APPROX. 12 - 15
NCC MENTAL H APPROX. 12 - 15
NCC WOMENS & CH APPROX. 12 - 15
NCC CHRONIC C APPROX. 12 - 15
NCC NURSING APPROX. 12 - 15
NCC PRIMARY C APPROX. 12 - 15
NCC ACUTE APPROX. 12 - 15

= Approximately 618 excluding stakeholders
## Guidelines programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject area</th>
<th>Completed (n=37)</th>
<th>Under development (n=42)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central nervous (inc mental health)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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## Appraisals programme

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<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musculo-skeletal</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Gastro-intestinal</td>
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<td>Others</td>
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## Procedures programme

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<td>Central nervous</td>
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<td>Ophthalmology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear, nose and throat</td>
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<td>Other6</td>
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Public Health Excellence

• Public health interventions
  – Single measures/techniques
  – Effective and cost effective

• Public health programmes
  – Suites of actions, interventions and policies
  – Effective and cost effective
Priority public health topics

Public health interventions

• An assessment of four commonly used methods to increase physical activity: brief interventions in primary care, pedometers, exercise referral schemes and community based exercise programmes for walking and cycling.

• An assessment of interventions (including screening) to reduce the transmission of Chlamydia and other STIs and to reduce the rate of under eighteen conceptions, especially among vulnerable and at risk groups.

• An assessment of brief interventions and referral for smoking cessation in primary care (including pharmacy and dental services as well as GPs surgeries) and other settings with particular reference to pregnant smokers and disadvantaged groups and the tailoring and targeting of interventions.
Priority public health topics

Public health programmes

• Guidance on the optimal provision of smoking cessation services including the provision of NRT, for primary care, pharmacies, local authorities and workplaces with particular reference to manual groups, pregnant smokers and hard to reach communities.

• Guidance for midwives, health visitors, pharmacists and other primary care services to improve the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low income households.

• The most appropriate means of generic and specific interventions to support attitude and behaviour change at population and community levels.
Status and Impact of NICE guidance

• Integrated into clinical and managerial performance frameworks

• Impact on public, patients, professionals, commissioners, funders and government..
Quality Framework for the NHS

NICE

National Service Frameworks

Clear standards of service

Local delivery

Monitored standards

Commission for Health and Audit

Professional Self-regulation

Clinical governance

Lifelong learning

Patient and public involvement

Patient and public involvement

Patient and public involvement
In 6 years what impact has NICE had…

Monthly website “hits”
……on the public?

“Overall how positive or negative would you say NICE’s image is?”

Percent responders (n=274)

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very positive</th>
<th>Quite positive</th>
<th>Quite negative</th>
<th>Very negative</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>65</td>
<td>15</td>
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On politicians

Mean score by political party

Response (%)

Conservative  Labour  Lib-Dems  Other
On professionals.... as the BMA saw us in 1999
In the .......

The British Medical Journal

“The failings of NICE”

“Wrong SIGN, NICE mess: Is national guidance distorting allocation of resources”

“A rational framework for decision making by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) (Lancet 2002)”
And now ……

The British Medical Journal

The editor’s choice (BMJ 2004; 345: 175)

The Triumph of NICE

“NICE may prove to be one of Britain’s greatest cultural exports, along with Shakespeare, Newtonian physics, the Beatles, Harry Potter and the Teletubbies”.

“Satisfactory but could do better”
Welcome to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence website

NICE is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health, the prevention and treatment of ill health and the provision of healthcare services through guidance on clinical excellence and public health excellence.

On 1 April 2005 NICE joined the other organisations to form the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).