

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Paddy Woods



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG100) 26/18

Subject: NICE Clinical Guideline NG100 – Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management (updates and replaces CG79)

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**
All HSC Board Directors – for cascade to relevant staff

Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board – **for cascade to:**
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant
Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**
Director of Public Health and Medical Director – for cascade
to relevant staff
Director of Nursing and AHPs – for cascade to relevant staff

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
Directors of Social Services – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Finance – for cascade to relevant staff
AHP Leads – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority – **for
cascade to:** relevant independent healthcare establishments

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chair of Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chair of RQIA
NICE Implementation Facilitator NI
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

Summary of Contents:

This guideline covers diagnosing and managing rheumatoid arthritis. It aims to improve quality of life by ensuring that people with rheumatoid arthritis have the right treatment to slow the progression of their condition and control their symptoms. People should also have rapid access to specialist care if their condition suddenly worsens.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

Quality Regulation and Improvement Unit
Department of Health
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Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG100) 26/18

Date of Issue: 04 September 2018

Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 3/13

Superseded documents

NICE Clinical Guideline CG79 - Rheumatoid Arthritis
HSC (SQSD) (NICE CG79) 07/16 - Addendum

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

As per circular. Generally, Clinical Guidelines should be implemented within 12 months of endorsement.

Additional copies:

Available to download from
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

Dear Colleagues

NICE Clinical Guideline NG100 - Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management (updates and replaces CG79) - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng100>

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally endorsed it as applicable in Northern Ireland.

In accordance with the process outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 3/13, the following actions should be taken (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/hsc-sqsd-3-13.pdf>)

1. HSC Board / PHA
 - a. Identify a Professional Lead who will consider the commissioning implications of the Clinical Guideline and co-ordinate with any other relevant commissioning teams. This Lead will identify any areas where regional planning / investment / commissioning are required, or where there is material risk to safety or quality. These will then be actioned immediately through normal commissioning arrangements or through bespoke arrangements reflecting the nature of the issue / risk.
 - b. Ensure that relevant guidance is sent to the appropriate Family Practitioners.
 - c. Seek positive assurance from the HSC Trusts that the required initial actions have been undertaken within a 3 month period, and that the Guideline has been implemented within a further 9 months (unless otherwise notified by the HSC Trusts).
 - d. Where significant investment/ commissioning needs cannot be met within the usual timeframe, agree appropriate arrangements with HSC Trusts. Report to DoH as required at 6 monthly accountability meetings.
2. HSC Trusts
 - a. Proceed with targeted dissemination, agree a clinical/management lead to coordinate implementation and consider what has to be done to achieve implementation using a risk based assessment and baseline review as appropriate to support planning. These initial actions should be undertaken within a three month period.
 - b. Implement the Guideline within a further 9 months (apart from any elements where significant issues have been raised with the HSC Board/PHA).
 - c. Provide positive assurances to the HSC Board that required initial actions have been taken within the 3 month planning period and that the Guideline has been implemented within a further 9 months, where appropriate.
 - d. Where significant investment/ commissioning needs cannot be met within the usual timeframe, notify the HSC Board/PHA at the earliest opportunity through the bi-monthly director level meetings and agree appropriate arrangements with them to achieve implementation.
3. RQIA
 - a. Disseminate the Guideline to the independent sector as appropriate.
4. HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs
 - a. Take account of this Guideline in training and other developments as appropriate.

To inform the planning process, please find attached details from the Departmental review. You should consider and take account of other relevant Departmental policies and strategies in your planning, as well as any legislative / policy caveats identified in the course of the Departmental review.

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paddy Woods', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Paddy Woods
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Clinical Guideline – NG100 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng100
Title	Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline updates and replaces NICE Clinical Guideline CG79 - Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management (endorsed by DoH in May 2012 and addendum February 2016).</p> <p>The guideline covers diagnosing and managing rheumatoid arthritis. It aims to improve quality of life by ensuring that people with rheumatoid arthritis have the right treatment to slow the progression of their condition and control their symptoms. People should also have rapid access to specialist care if their condition suddenly worsens.</p> <p>The guideline includes new and updated recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigations following diagnosis • treat-to-target strategy and initial pharmacological management • symptom control and monitoring <p>It also includes recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigations for diagnosis and referral from primary care • non-pharmacological management and the multidisciplinary team • communication and education • timing and referral for surgery
Related strategically relevant DoH/ HSC policies	None
Inter-Departmental interest	None
Legislative / policy caveats	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.