Healthcare Improvement Scotland process for assessing the applicability of Technology Appraisal Guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for NHSScotland

1. Introduction

1.1 This process supersedes that published by the NHS Quality Improvement Scotland in July 2003. In recognition of the needs and expectations of decision-makers in Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland advises on the applicability of Technology Appraisal Guidance published by NICE (NICE Appraisals) after 1 April 2011.

1.2 NICE publishes two forms of Technology Appraisal Guidance - Multiple Technology Appraisals (MTAs) and Single Technology Appraisals (STAs). Only NICE MTAs are processed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland as described in this paper.

1.3 In 2006 when NICE started publishing STAs it was agreed with the Scottish Executive (now Scottish Government) that SMC would remain the source of advice on new drugs, indications and formulations to NHSScotland. Consequently Healthcare Improvement Scotland does not assess the applicability of NICE STAs and newsletter alerts on NICE STAs to NHSScotland are for information only.

1.4 Healthcare Improvement Scotland considers the suitability of the NICE MTAs for Scotland in the light of the following contextual factors :

- Policies, 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.

1.5 Healthcare Improvement Scotland issues advice on NICE MTAs which identify any contextual differences, via monthly newsletter alerts and its website. The advice also highlights any further work being undertaken to provide support for NHSScotland on planning for the implementation of NICE MTAs, for example, by HIS itself, the Scottish Health Technologies Group, National Services Scotland National Procurement, Scottish Government, or other advisory bodies. Details such as timescales and contact persons are provided whenever possible where additional work is being undertaken.

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2. Process

2.1 Review of draft NICE Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) documents

2.1.3 At the start of the NICE MTA process, a small group of Scottish clinical experts is identified. This group is invited to comment and feedback to NICE and Healthcare Improvement Scotland on the draft scope of the appraisal, and thereafter is invited follow the NICE MTA through the whole development process. This includes commenting on the NICE technology assessment report (the scientific report on the clinical and cost effectiveness of the health technology), the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) and the Final Appraisal Determination (FAD). The experts fulfil two roles, namely providing a Scottish input into the NICE process and secondly assisting Healthcare Improvement Scotland in assessing the applicability of the MTA guidance for NHSScotland.

2.2 Expert involvement

2.2.1 Sources of experts include – but are not limited to – those from Managed Clinical Networks, Royal Colleges, Area Drugs and Therapeutic Committees, SIGN guideline groups, Scottish Government Health Directorates, Healthcare Improvement Scotland project groups and patient representative or voluntary groups. Experts are required to sign a confidentiality undertaking and register all interests. All documentation of this process (including expert comments) is subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act.

2.3 Processed NICE MTAs

2.3.1 Healthcare Improvement Scotland alerts NHSScotland to the publication of a NICE MTA via a monthly newsletter which highlights any implications for Scotland. The newsletter is circulated to coincide with publication of the NICE MTA. The alert is also provided on the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website. .

2.3.2 The newsletter is sent to representatives from all NHS Boards, including NHS Board Chief Executives, Directors of Planning, Directors of Pharmacy, Directors of Public Health and HIS Liaison Coordinators, all of whom are asked to cascade it appropriately to relevant staff.

2.3.3 Using the subscription section on the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website(revised subscription link to be inserted) anyone can request to

receive the Healthcare Improvement Scotland alerts directly to their Inbox..

2.4 NICE Single Technology Appraisals (STAs)

2.4.1 Healthcare Improvement Scotland receives the NICE documentation for STAs but does not seek any experts to comment on the documents. Healthcare Improvement Scotland shares the documents with SMC. The Healthcare Improvement Scotland newsletter alerts NHSScotland to the publication of NICE STAs but for information only.

2.4.2 SMC identifies differences in advice between NICE STA recommendations and SMC advice. SMC advises SGHD of any differences and any further action if required.