

**Date and Time: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014**

**Minutes:** Final

**Guideline Development Group Meeting 1 – Low back pain**

**Place:** NCGC office, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ

**Present:**

**GDG members**

Stephen Ward (SW) - Chair  
 Babak Arvin (BA) - Neurosurgeon  
 Ian Bernstein (IB) - General Practitioner  
 Patrick Hill (PH) - Consultant Clinical Psychologist  
 Gary MacFarlane (GM) - Chair (clinical) epidemiology  
 Mark Mason (MM) - Patient/Carer representative  
 Wendy Menon (WM) - Patient/ Carer representative  
 Neil O’Connell (NOC) - Physiotherapist  
 Philip Sell (PS) - Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon  
 Simon Somerville (SS) - General Practitioner  
 Helen Taylor (HT) - Nurse Specialist  
 Steven Vogel (SV) – Osteopath  
 David Walsh (DW) - Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist  
 Chris Wells (CW) - Consultant in Pain Medicine

**NCGC**

Kim Archer (KA) – Project Manager  
 Sophia Kemmis Betty (SKB) – Health Economist  
 Serena Carville (SC) – Associate Director,  
 Lina Gulhane (LG) – Joint Head of Information Science  
 Rhosyn Harris (RH) – Research Fellow  
 Kate Lovibond (KL) – Senior Health Economist  
 Qudsia Malik (QM) – Research Fellow  
 Silvia Rabar (SR) – Senior Research Fellow

**Apologies:** Paul Miller – Information Scientist

**In attendance:**

<p><b>NICE Staff:</b>                  Ben Doak (BD)                  Erin Whittingham (EW)</p>		<p>Present for notes 1 - 7</p>
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## Notes

### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the low back pain guideline development group and thanked them for their interest in the guideline. The Chair asked all those present to give a brief introduction. No apologies were received.

All members were asked to declare any conflicts of interest. The following were declared:

SW declared a personal pecuniary interest as a director of Back@Work Ltd which provides a community pain management service for the residents of Mid Sussex. SW also declared a non-pecuniary interest as a board member of the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

IB declared a personal pecuniary interest. He was course organiser and lecturer at a musculoskeletal education workshop on 3rd October 2013. The meeting was organised by NHS Ealing CCG. He received a payment of £600 as course organiser from NHS Ealing CCG. Pfizer sponsored the meeting and are making their contribution to NHS Ealing CCG. IB also declared a number of Personal non-pecuniary interests. He lectured at the Association for Medical Osteopathy in October 2013 at which lunch was provided. He lectured and led workshops at the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance seminar on 26th November 2013. Refreshments and dinner were provided. The meeting was sponsored by Roche. IB lectured at the NHS Alliance Conference 'Breaking Boundaries' on 28th November 2013. Refreshments were provided. He also lectured at the British Institute of Musculoskeletal Medicine annual symposium in Stratford E London on 7th December 2013. Refreshments were provided and the meeting was sponsored by TRB Chemedica (UK) Ltd. No honorarium was received.

SS declared a personal non-pecuniary interest. He has been involved in the STarT Back and IMPaCT Back studies which focus on a stratified approach to back pain management.

SV declared a personal non-pecuniary interest. He was a member of the last GDG for the last NICE clinical guideline on persistent non-specific back pain. He is a member of the British Osteopathic Association and registered with the General Osteopathic Council. He does not hold any defined roles with either organisation, but sits on the NHS England's pathfinder project "low back pain and sciatica" as a nominee of the British Osteopathic Association. SV has led research into the safety (adverse events) of osteopathy/manual therapy in the UK and presented this work nationally and internationally. Publications are in preparation.

HT declared a non-personal pecuniary interest. HT is employed by Pain Management Solutions who are an independent provider of community chronic pain services to the NHS and have 20 contracts with Clinical Commissioning Groups and is registered on national Choose and Book. Patients with low back pain form a large part of the case load.

CW declared a personal pecuniary interest in that he is paid as a healthcare professional to assess and treat back pain suffering. In addition, CW is President elect of EFIC which makes recommendations on back pain from time to time.

NOC declared a personal pecuniary interest. As a physiotherapist and a researcher in the field of chronic back pain specifically he has published a number of manuscripts on this topic. These include a debate paper that critiqued the assertion that poor performance of therapies in clinical trials may be due to inadequate subgrouping of back pain patients. He has also published narrative reviews and original research papers relating to the evidence of altered central nervous system function in chronic non-specific low back pain. Finally, he has made regular contributions relating to back pain to the science blog [www.bodyinmind.org](http://www.bodyinmind.org) where has presented critical summaries of contemporary back pain research for a clinical and lay audience.

PH declared a personal non-pecuniary interest. He was appointed as Chair of the Psychology in Physical Health Task force, by the Professional Practice Board of the British Psychological Society for 2 years, as from 1st May 2013.

DW declared a non-pecuniary interest as Director of the Arthritis Research UK Pain Centre at Nottingham University where his research benefits from specific research funding from Arthritis Research UK and the National Institute for Health Research. In addition, through the University of Nottingham, he holds a grant from Pfizer Ltd under their Inflammation Competitive Research Programme which supports research on pain in rheumatoid arthritis. DW is Principle Investigator at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on industry-funded clinical trials in rheumatoid arthritis. DW also declared a Personal non-pecuniary interest. He has previously expressed opinions on the treatment of low back pain in research publications and reviews. He was a member of the GDG leading to the publication of NICE guidelines on low back pain in 2009. In addition (details below), he was co-author of a letter to the Br. Med. J. following the publication of the 2009 LBP guidelines, published correspondence in Pain News, the journal of the British Pain Society, and made presentations on the content of the 2009 LBP guidelines to national professional meetings. DW is a member of the British Society for Rheumatology, British Pain Society, British Medical Association, International Association for the Study of Pain, and American College of Rheumatology, each of which has an interest in Low Back Pain and its treatment, and in the professionals who deliver those treatments.

PS declared a Personal non-pecuniary interest. He is President of EUROSPINE, the Spine Society of Europe. He has held previous Executive roles in the British Spine Societies, Society Back Pain research, British Scoliosis Society and the British Association of Spine Surgeons.

WM declared a family interest. Her husband is Prof David K Menon MD PhD FRCP FRCA FFICM FMedSci, Head, Division of Anaesthesia, University of Cambridge, Consultant, Neurosciences Critical Care Unit, BOC Professor, Royal College of Anaesthetists, Professorial Fellow, Queens' College, Cambridge and Senior Investigator, National Institute for Health Research. WM also declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of ESCO – Experts in severe and complex obesity.

No further action is required for any of the declaration of interests detailed above.

GM declared a personal pecuniary interest. He serves on the independent expert panel of the Inflammation Competitive Research programme of Pfizer. This is a competitive grant programme organised and funded by Pfizer Ltd and the review of proposals is undertaken by the panel on which he sits. GM also declared a non-personal pecuniary interest as a Chief investigator on an Investigator Initiated Proposal 'The Scotland and Ireland Registry for Ankylosing Spondylitis' which was funded by Abb Vie and Pfizer (formerly Wyeth) 2008-13. He is also Chief Investigator on the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) Biologics Register for Ankylosing Spondylitis. This grant is awarded and administered by the BSR but the BSR obtains funds from Abbvie and Pfizer towards the costs of the register.

The Chair will discuss this declaration of interest further and will decide whether GM can participate in the discussions and recommendations concerning pharmacological interventions.

## **2. The NCGC Overview, technical team and working practices**

SC gave a presentation detailing the guideline development process and introduced the technical team.

## **3. Role of the Guideline Commissioning Manager/Equalities scheme**

BD gave an overview of the NICE guideline development process including the key stages in guideline development process and the NICE guideline products that will be developed in association with the guideline. The legal requirements specified in the equalities act were also described.

## **4. The role of the patient/carer**

EW delivered a presentation detailing the role of the patient/carer representatives in guideline development.

## **5. Declaration of Interests**

SC presented an overview of the declaration of interest policy and explained the process. GDG members were reminded of the need to declare any new conflict of interests at each GDG meeting.

## **6. Scope**

SW gave a brief overview of the scope and reminded the GDG of the key clinical areas that will and will not be covered.

## **7. Reviewing the questions**

RH presented the results of a survey that had been sent to GDG members ahead of the meeting and how the review questions had been amended accordingly.

## **8. Searching the evidence**

LG delivered a presentation detailing the role of the information scientist and explained the Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome (PICO) format that will be used for the research questions. GDG members were advised that they can help the information scientists by identifying key papers, highlighting acronyms and terminology and highlighting research approaching publication.

## **9. Introduction to health economics**

KL explained how health economic evidence is incorporated within NICE guideline development and illustrated some concepts that will be used in the cost-effectiveness analyses. The GDG were informed that they will be required to focus on 2 or 3 priority areas for health economic analysis and these will be discussed in subsequent GDG meetings. Prioritisation of these areas will help in developing an economic plan which will be submitted to NICE. The GDG were encouraged to attend one of the NICE Health Economics Workshop.

## **10. Introduction to evidence review**

RH explained how the protocol for each question is constructed and used to define the search strategy. RH went on to explain how evidence is presented and this included a brief overview of evidence tables, grade tables, forest plots and evidence summary tables.

## **11. Protocols**

The GDG began to review the protocols. The protocol for the review question on postural therapies was agreed.

## **Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

Tuesday 1 April 2014, 10:00 – 16:00 NCGC office, 180 Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ