

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Centre for Public Health Excellence

Review of Public Health guidance (PH11) – Improving the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low-income households

1. Background information

Guidance issue date: 2008

3 year review: 2011

2. Review recommendation

- The guidance should not be updated at this time. It should be reviewed again in 3 years.
- Recommendation 17 will be amended so that it is consistent with the advice in the UK-WHO growth charts and the personal child health record (PCHR)

3. Rationale for the review recommendation

Consideration of the evidence and practice

NICE convened an expert group to consider whether any new evidence or significant changes in policy and practice would be likely to lead to substantively different recommendations. The expert group met in March 2011 to discuss current and ongoing research of relevance to the current recommendations.

It was noted that the Scientific Advisory Group on Nutrition (SACN) will be publishing a number of scientific reports over the next 2-3 years in relation to the guidance topic area which may impact on the current recommendations.

There are a number of large scale intervention trials ongoing and an evaluation of the national Healthy Start scheme, the findings from which may also impact on the current recommendations. However the results of these trials are not expected to be published before 2013 or 2014

The national policy context for the commissioning and provision of maternity, postnatal and children's services and nutritional support services is undergoing change, but the implication of these changes is still unclear.

The expert group considered that all recommendations were still relevant and useful. They suggested there was insufficient new evidence since the finalisation of the guidance reviews that would cause a change to the existing recommendations.

The Department of Health has recently published a new guide to bottle feeding

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_124526.pdf and an appropriate adjustment will be made to recommendations 14 and 20.

Recommendation 17 will also be amended to be consistent with advice in the UK-WHO growth charts <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/Research/UK-WHO-Growth-Charts> and the personal child health record (PCHR or 'red book').

Implementation and post publication feedback

No new evidence was identified through post publication enquiries or implementation feedback that would indicate a need to update the guidance.

Stakeholder consultation

The proposal was made to stakeholders that the guidance should not be updated at this time and should be reviewed again in three years. Seven PH11 Review recommendation

stakeholders responded to the consultation. Six stakeholders were in agreement that the guidance should not be updated at this time. They also agreed that recommendation 17 should be amended to be consistent with the advice in the UK-WHO growth charts and the PCHR. One stakeholder questioned the consistency of the evidence for one of the current recommendations in the guidance and highlighted the findings from two studies. However this recommendation was based on overwhelming systematic review evidence and economic modelling analysis findings. Furthermore, the expert group and the majority of stakeholders also supported this recommendation.

Equality and diversity considerations

There is no evidence to indicate that the guidance does not comply with anti-discrimination and equalities legislation.

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