

General Practice Airways Group

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Dear Christopher

NICE technology appraisal – continuous positive airway pressure for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea /hypopnoea syndrome

We are writing to add our support to the comments of the British Thoracic Society on the above appraisal.

We are delighted to see that the ACD recommends CPAP for people with moderate and severe obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA).

We would like to reinforce the recommendation that diagnosis of OSA and prescription of CPAP should only be carried out by clinicians with expertise in sleep medicine. We strongly support the management of these patients by nurses, technicians and clinicians who have experience and training in the management of sleep disorders. In order that patients are identified and referred to specialist services appropriately, we suggest that an education and training programme for primary care is established to improve understanding and awareness of the condition in primary care.

We trust that the implementation group at NICE has seen our comments relating to implementation from our letter in February.

Kind regards,

 General Practice Airways Group

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