



National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Spinal cord stimulation for chronic pain of neuropathic or ischaemic origin

Royal College of Nursing

Introduction

With a membership of over 400,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

Appraisal Consultation Document – RCN Response

The Royal College of Nursing welcomes the opportunity to review the Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) of the technology appraisal of Spinal cord stimulation for chronic pain of neuropathic or ischaemic origin.

The document is comprehensive and has covered all aspects very well.

Sound recommendations have been made on how to implement the guidance. We consider that effective recommendations on further research is an area that does need more work.

The only fact that perhaps relates to the equality question is in regards to access to pain clinics as this obviously acts as a 'gatekeeper' to the treatment. The point is well made in the document that this option needs to be considered as part of the process within MDT pain management arrangements and not as an isolated event thus the availability of pain clinic is pivotal.

June 2008