

Issue 1

Description of problem	Description of proposed amendment	Result of amended model or expected impact on the result (if applicable)
<p>In NICE's recommendations and key conclusions, clopidogrel or dipyridamole are referred to as being 'recommended as a treatment option.' The general reader may find this terminology very confusing i.e. is the treatment in question recommended or is it an option? The two terms have different implications for the user. Our understanding is that NICE wishes to imply that, if a clinician regards the use of one of these drugs as clinically appropriate, then the one they refer to (clopidogrel or modified release dipyridamole depending on the indication) is the recommended one.</p>	<p>Could you please consider making the terminology clearer so that the user knows whether, as in the example of ischaemic stroke (ACD section 1.1.1 page 29), clopidogrel should be used or should be considered for use or may be used. With the current wording and particularly the use of the words "an option", we believe that the general reader could easily conclude that NICE means any one of these three interpretations, which could be potentially confusing.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

Issue 2

Description of problem	Description of proposed amendment	Result of amended model or expected impact on the result (if applicable)
<p>Generic clopidogrel is cheaper than branded clopidogrel and so will obviously be preferred by the NHS on cost grounds. However as was noted</p>	<p>Could you please consider making reference to this. Our understanding is that plavix and generic clopidogrel preparations are assumed as equal in their efficacy, but that this is not proven.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

<p>on p. 73 of NICE's CG94 (unstable angina and NSTEMI guideline), generic versions of clopidogrel are often not the same compound as branded Plavix, which is clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate (because they are different clopidogrel salts), and that the evidence upon which recommendations are made usually refers to Plavix.</p>	<p>(Please be assured that we are not disputing NICE's advice that the cheapest version of clopidogrel should be used when indicated. It is merely our view that the evidence base may not necessarily apply to these cheaper versions, when they are different compounds).</p>	
--	---	--