

Guidance on the use of coronary artery stents

1 Guidance

- 1.1 Stents should be used routinely where percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) is the clinically appropriate procedure for patients with either stable or unstable angina or with acute myocardial infarction (MI).
- 1.2 It is recommended that when considering the use of a bare-metal stent (BMS) or a drug-eluting stent (DES) the decision should be based on the anatomy of the target vessel for stenting and the symptoms and mode of presentation of the disease.
- 1.3 The use of either a Cypher (sirolimus-eluting) or Taxus (paclitaxel-eluting) stent is recommended in PCI for patients with symptomatic coronary artery disease (CAD), in whom the target artery is less than 3 mm in calibre (internal diameter) or the lesion is longer than 15 mm. This guidance for the use of DES does not apply to people who have had an MI in the preceding 24 hours, or for whom there is angiographic evidence of thrombus in the target artery.
- 1.4 If more than one artery is considered clinically appropriate for stenting then the considerations in Section 1.3 apply to each artery.
- 1.5 This guidance specifically relates to the present clinical indications for PCI and excludes conditions (such as many cases of stable angina) that are adequately managed with standard drug therapy.

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This guidance is written in the following context:

This guidance represents the view of the Institute which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Health professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Ordering information

Copies of this summary can be obtained from the NHS Response Line by telephoning 0870 1555 455 and quoting ref: N0333. For copies of the full guidance quote reference number N0341. Information for the public can be obtained by quoting reference number N0334 for the English version and N0335 for a version in English and Welsh.

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