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PRESS RELEASE

NICE asked to develop guidance on treating eczema, support programmes for parents dealing with conduct disorder in children, use of statins for heart disease, and when hysterectomy is appropriate

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) today welcomed the announcement of additional topics for its forward work programme. Topics including treating eczema, management of dementia, parent training programmes for treatment and prevention of conduct disorder, the use of statins for the prevention of coronary events, and new drugs for Alzheimer's disease have been referred to NICE by the Secretary of State for Health and the Welsh Assembly Government in line with the national priorities they have established for the NHS. Once these topics have been referred, the development of the subsequent advice is entirely the responsibility of NICE.

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have formally referred:

- Six clinical guidelines which include guidelines for the management of dementia, including use of antipsychotic medication in older people, and guidelines on management and delivery of care to women in labour (intrapartum care) and on routine post natal care of recently delivered women and their babies.

- Fifteen technologies for appraisal, which include the use of statins for prevention of coronary events, the use of memantine (Ebixa) for moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease, and parent training programmes for treatment and prevention of conduct disorder.

Commenting on the referrals, **Andrew Dillon, NICE Chief Executive said**, "NICE welcomes the topics referred today, which address important questions and areas of uncertainty for professionals, patients and carers. We will begin developing guidance that will inform their decisions about treatment and care in these areas as soon as possible, and we will publish details of the timetables for these topics on our web site before the end of May 2003".

Technology appraisals are recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and other treatments, and clinical guidelines are recommendations on the appropriate treatment and care of patients with specific diseases and conditions. NICE provides national guidance on treatments and care for people using the NHS in England and Wales.

The Department of Health and the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for selecting the topics for the NICE work programme. Full details of the process that is followed by the Department of Health and Welsh Assembly Government when selecting topics for NICE to consider can be found on the Department of Health's website at: www.doh.gov.uk/nice/consultation2002.

Ends

For more information call Louise Fish on 020 7067 5902 and 0778 639 0101.

Notes to Editors

1. NICE is part of the NHS. It is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on treatments and care for those using the NHS in England and Wales. Its guidance is for healthcare professionals and patients and their carers to help them make decisions about treatment and healthcare. For further information about NICE you can visit www.nice.org.uk.
2. NICE guidance and recommendations are prepared by independent groups that include professionals working in the NHS and people who are familiar with the issues affecting patients and carers.
3. The full list of topics referred by the Department of Health on Monday 31 March 2003 is shown below:

Technology appraisal topics:

- Hormonal treatments for early breast cancer
- Imatinib (Glivec) for gastro-intestinal stromal tumours
- Gefitinib (Iressa) for non-small cell lung cancer
- Dual chamber pacing
- Statins for prevention of coronary events
- Parent training programmes, for treatment and prevention of conduct disorder
- Memantine (Ebixa) for moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease
- New pharmaceutical treatments for non-Alzheimer dementias
- New treatments for venous leg ulcers
- New treatments for diabetic foot ulcers
- Omalizumab (Xolair) for uncontrolled asthma
- Drotrecogin (Xigris) and afelimomab (Segard) for severe sepsis
- New treatments for moderate to severe psoriasis
- Pimecrolimus (Elidel) and tacrolimus (Protopic) for atopic dermatitis (eczema)
- Topical steroids in atopic dermatitis (eczema)

Clinical guideline topics:

- Management of bipolar affective disorder (manic-depressive illness)
- Management of dementia, including use of antipsychotic medication in people with dementia
- Management and delivery of care to women in labour (intrapartum care)
- Routine post natal care of recently delivered women and their babies
- Hysterectomy and alternative interventions
- Management of urinary incontinence and prolapse of the womb

Other guidance:

- Guidance on identification, prevention and management of obesity and maintenance of weight reduction
 - Guidance on reduction in accidental injuries outside the home
 - Patient safety guide on prevention of venous thrombo-embolism in patients undergoing orthopaedic surgery and other high-risk surgical procedures
4. Full details are available in a Department of Health press release at www.doh.gov.uk or from the Department of Health press office on 020 7210 5010