



Submissions of guidelines sought

The National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) is seeking submissions of clinical guidelines for consideration to become part of the national suite of clinical guidelines.

The NCEC is the body which provides a framework for national endorsement of clinical guidelines and audit to optimise patient care. It is part of the *Patient Safety First Initiative*.

Clinical guidelines are systematically developed statements, based on a thorough evaluation of the evidence, to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances, across the entire clinical spectrum.

National clinical guidelines are required to provide explicit and transparent guidance for the delivery of safe, high quality and cost-effective care. The forthcoming National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare and licensing of healthcare facilities will require evidence of adherence to NCEC guidelines. Guideline recommendations can identify the services that should be included in the basket of care in a universal health insurance model. They also provide transparent processes to identify the most appropriate medications, and their use, for reimbursement under the Health (pricing and reimbursement of medicines) Bill.

The national suite of clinical guidelines will supersede all previous guidelines on the topic and will be utilized across the public and private system in Ireland.

In order to ensure that the national suite of clinical guidelines address health care priorities and are based on the highest level of evidence the NCEC will prioritise, appraise and make recommendations to the Minister for Health to endorse clinical guidelines.

It is recognised that the NCEC, and the health system as a whole, is likely to be able to effectively implement and monitor only a small number of new national clinical guidelines each year. Not all clinical guidelines need to be submitted for national endorsement and guideline development groups should continue to develop clinical guidelines in response to the needs of their own organisations. However, once a national clinical guideline is endorsed it will supersede any other guidelines on that topic.

The NCEC is now seeking submissions of clinical guidelines.

Any group who has developed a clinical guideline may wish to submit their guideline for consideration to become part of the national suite. The following documentation must be included in the submission:

- 1. Checklist for submission of clinical guidelines**
- 2. Clinical Guideline**

The process and relevant documentation that must be completed in order to submit a guideline is found in the [NCEC Framework for Endorsement of National Clinical Guidelines](#).

Clinical guidelines should be submitted in both electronic (PDF via email) and paper hard copy to: NCEC Office, Chief Medical Officer Division, Department of Health, Hawkins House, Dublin 2

Email: ncec@health.gov.ie

The deadline for submission of clinical guidelines is 5pm, January 27th, 2012.

All NCEC documentation and resources are available at www.patientsafetyfirst.ie