

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 01/10 CG 84

**Subject: Clinical Guideline No 84 – Diarrhoea and
Vomiting Due to Gastroenteritis in Children Under 5**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 01/2010

Date of Issue: 12 February 2010

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – for distribution to:

- Director of Performance Management & Service Improvement
- Director of Commissioning
- Assistant Directors of Commissioning
- Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
- Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant
Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – for distribution to:

- Director of Public Health
- Director of Nursing

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – for distribution to:

- Medical Directors – for cascade to relevant staff
- Directors of Nursing – for cascade to relevant staff
- Heads of Pharmaceutical Services – for cascade to relevant staff
- Directors of Acute Services – for cascade to relevant staff
- HSC Clinical and Social Governance Leads

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For information to:

- Chair of HSC Board
- Chair of Public Health Agency
- Chairs of HSC Trusts
- Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
- Chief Executive Patient and Client Council
- Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
- Chief Executive, NICPLD
- Chief Executive, NIPEC
- Chair, RMSG

Summary of Contents:

This guideline covers diagnosis, assessment of dehydration, fluid management, nutritional management and the role of antibiotics and other therapies to children under 5 suffering gastroenteritis.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

Standards & Guidelines Quality Unit
DHSSPS
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stermont
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Related documents:

See Bullet Point 8 below

Superseded documents

Status of Contents:
Action

Implementation:

To take account of this guidance in delivery and planning of services to children under 5 suffering from gastroenteritis.

Additional copies:

Available to download from
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance.htm>

Dear Colleagues

Clinical Guideline No 84 – Diarrhoea and Vomiting Due to Gastroenteritis in Children Under 5

This guideline applies to children younger than 5 years who present to a healthcare professional for advice in any setting. It covers diagnosis, assessment of dehydration, fluid management, nutritional management and the role of antibiotics and other therapies. It provides recommendations on the advice to be given to parents and carers, and also considers when care should be escalated - from home management through to hospital admission.

The guideline will assume that prescribers will use a drug's summary of product characteristics to inform their decisions for individual patients.

DHSSPS advises that this guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it for implementation in HSC.

The full NICE technology appraisal guideline is available for download at:
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG84>

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. The Department expects HSC organisations to take account of this guidance in the planning and delivery of their services to children under 5 suffering from Gastroenteritis.
2. Where this guidance refers to the management of IV fluids, clinicians should apply the guidance in the wall chart on Parenteral Fluid Therapy for Children and Young Persons aged Over 4 Weeks and Under 16 Years.
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_sqsd_20-07_wallchart-2.pdf
3. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Department of Health document 'Reference Guide to Consent for Treatment or Examination' do not apply in NI, but work is under way to bring forward similar legislation for NI, incorporating mental capacity and mental health provisions. The DHSSPS guidance 'Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care (2003)', which is available on the DHSSPS website, gives advice on determining whether a person has capacity and on what action may be taken where the person lacks capacity. Available from:
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/consent-referenceguide.pdf>
4. Where reference is made to the Department of Health guidance 'Seeking consent: working with children', Northern Ireland healthcare professionals should follow the DHSSPS equivalent guidance 'Seeking consent: working with children'. Available from:
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/consent-guidepart2.pdf>
5. Where the guidance refers to 'remote assessment' and 'NHS Direct', these do not apply to NI. There is an out of hours facility, which is a doctor led service, available in NI when the GP surgeries are closed.
6. This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or

complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.

7. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG84> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice.

8. NICE has developed related guidance and this can be accessed at:

Feverish illness in children: assessment and initial management in children younger than 5 years. NICE clinical guideline 47 (2007). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/CG47

All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be viewed on the DHSSPS website at:

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance>

Circular HSS (PPMD) (NICE) 01/06 issued on 30 June 2006 provides further information on the Northern Ireland process for reviewing NICE guidance and further details on the local status of the Institute's guidance. This circular can be accessed at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf



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