

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE IPG) 7/26

**Subject: NICE Interventional Procedures Guidance
– Bi-monthly HSC Communication –
March & April 2026**

Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE IPG) 7/26

Date of Issue: 11 May 2026

For action by:

SPPG – **for distribution to:**

Family Practitioner Services Leads – for cascade to relevant
Family Practitioner groups

Chief Executive of Public Health Agency – **for distribution to:**

Director of Public Health and Medical Director – for cascade
to relevant staff
Director of Nursing and AHPs – for cascade to relevant
Staff

Chief Executives of HSC Trusts – **for distribution to:**

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

Chief Executive of Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority - for
distribution to relevant independent healthcare establishments

For Information to:

SPPG
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chief Executive of NIAS
Chief Executive of PCC
Chief Executive of NIBTS
Chief Executive of NIPEC
Chief Executive/Postgraduate Dean, NIMDTA
Clinical Education Centre, BSO
NI NICE Implementation Facilitator
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

Summary of Contents:

The purpose of this circular is to advise HSC organisations of new
interventional procedures guidance published by NICE in March &
April 2026.

Enquiries:

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

NICE Lead
Medicines Access Branch
Department of Health
Room D4.18
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk

Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 14/22

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

For action

Implementation:

See point 5 below

Additional copies:

Available to download from
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>

Dear Colleague

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE (NICE): INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES GUIDANCE – MARCH & APRIL 2026

Introduction

1. On 1 July 2006, as part of the Department's formal link with NICE, Northern Ireland joined England, Scotland and Wales as full participants in the NICE Interventional Procedures Programme. This means that NICE must be notified of any new interventional procedure being considered by a clinician, no longer in a training post, who has either not used the procedure before, or has only used it outside the HSC/NHS. Further information on the NICE Interventional Procedures Programme, and the local requirements for notifying an interventional procedure, are set out in circular HSC (SQSD) 14/22 (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/nice-interventional-procedures-programme>)

Definition and Types of Interventional Procedures Guidance

2. An Interventional Procedure is defined as any procedure used for diagnosis or treatment that involves incision; puncture; entry into a body cavity; or the use of ionising, electromagnetic or acoustic energy.
3. There are five types of interventional procedures guidance*:
 - **Normal (Can be used)** – Apply normal consent, audit and clinical governance arrangements plus any additional recommendations, for example, on training, service delivery or data collection;
 - **Special (Can be used with evidence generation)** – Notify clinical governance leads, ensure patients understand the uncertainties referred to in the guidance, and audit and review clinical outcomes of all patients having the procedure plus any additional recommendations, for example, on training, service delivery or data collection;
 - **Other** – Guidance recommends a combination of normal (**Can be used**) or special arrangements (**Can be used with evidence generation**);
 - **Research only (More research is needed)** – use only in the context of a formal research protocol; and
 - **Do not use (Should not be used)** – the procedure should not be used in the National Health Service (NHS) or the HSC in Northern Ireland.

***Note:** The NICE Interventional Procedures Programme has been integrated into a broader HealthTech programme which manages all non-medicine technologies (former Diagnostics Assessment programme, Interventional Procedures programme and Medical Technologies Evaluation programme). All previously published and new Interventional Procedures Guidance (IPG) have been moved or rebranded to become HealthTech guidance (HTG) to align with this new structure. Updates have also been made to the NICE Interventional Procedures Programme Manual ([PMG28](#)). The 4 types of recommendations that NICE will now make have been set out above in brackets. Circular HSC (SQSD) 14/22 will be replaced in due course to adapt to these changes.

- Interventional procedures guidance is concerned only with safety and efficacy; there is no consideration of cost or cost-effectiveness. It simply recommends the circumstances in which a procedure should be used and confirms that the procedure does what it is intended to do. It does not recommend that the procedure ought to be used or that it ought to be funded.

New NICE Guidance on Interventional Procedures

- NICE have recently published the following interventional procedures guidance:

Reference Number	Title of Guidance	Arrangements	Link	Date published
HTG772	Off-pump minimal access mitral valve repair by artificial chordae insertion to treat mitral regurgitation	Can be used with evidence generation / More research is needed	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/htg772	March 2026
HTG774	Surgical insertion of a catheter-based left ventricular microaxial flow pump for cardiogenic shock	Can be used with evidence generation	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/htg774	March 2026
HTG775	Percutaneous insertion of a catheter-based left ventricular microaxial flow pump for cardiogenic shock	Can be used with evidence generation	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/htg775	March 2026
HTG777	Transvenous embolisation for spontaneous intracranial hypotension caused by a cerebrospinal fluid–venous fistula	Can be used with evidence generation	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/htg777	April 2026

- A full list of all published NICE interventional procedures guidance can be found at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/Type/IP/Published>

The HSC sector should also note that:

- The Department expects HSC organisations to take account of NICE interventional procedures guidance, however, where NICE produces interventional procedures guidance with a “do not use (**Should not be used**)” recommendation, these should be treated as essential and for rapid action. HSC Trusts will need to give positive assurance that these interventional procedures are not being used at the routine director level Service Issues and Performance meetings with the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG).
- Where interventional procedures guidance has been issued by NICE under the special (**Can be used with evidence generation**), other or research only (**More research is needed**) arrangements, it is the individual responsibility of the

clinician undertaking the interventional procedure to take the appropriate actions as outlined in Paragraph 3 of this communication.

9. **It is important to notify NICE prior to undertaking any new interventional procedures as described in circular HSC (SQSD) 14/22. Where a procedure is notified to NICE for use in HSC, the Chair of the HSC Trust Committee must also inform the Department by email via the Standards and Guidelines NICE Mailbox: SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk**
10. **If a clinician is any doubt as to whether or not a procedure is new, then the best approach is to notify the procedure to the Programme using the process detailed in this circular.**

Further information

11. Clinicians in Northern Ireland are encouraged to register an interest on the NICE website in order to receive updates on the development of interventional procedures guidance relevant to their HSC practice.
12. Further information on the Interventional Procedures Programme can be found on the NICE website <http://www.nice.org.uk>. Enquiries about the Programme should be directed to the Programme coordinators at ip@nice.org.uk.
13. Any queries relating to this circular, or about Northern Ireland's participation in the Programme, should be directed to the NICE Lead, Medicines Access Branch (MAB), DoH, Room D4.18, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SQ, or e-mail SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk.



Professor Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer