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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HE1-16-168

Date: 7 June 2016

Dear Colleague

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the local review process for assessing the applicability of NICE guidance to HSC. NICE has recently published the following guidance:

**Eculizumab for treating atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/hst1>

NICE guidance is designed and developed for the NHS in England and is therefore not automatically applicable to Northern Ireland. On 1 July 2006 the Department established links with NICE whereby all technology appraisals and clinical guidelines published from that date are locally reviewed for applicability to Northern Ireland and, where appropriate, are endorsed for implementation in health and social care. **THE LOCAL REVIEW DOES NOT REASSESS THE CLINICAL AND COST EVIDENCE USED BY NICE IN FORMING ITS ADVICE.** This link has ensured that Northern Ireland has access to up-to-date, independent, professional, evidence-based guidance on the value of health care interventions.

Highly specialised technology (HST) evaluations are recommendations on the use of new and existing highly specialised medicines and treatments within the NHS. The NICE highly specialised technologies programme only considers drugs for very rare conditions. The Department recently agreed to consider NICE HST evaluations in the same way as the process set out for Technology Appraisals.

The circular providing details of the process for the endorsement, implementation, monitoring and assurance of NICE Technology Appraisals in Northern Ireland can be found at the following website –

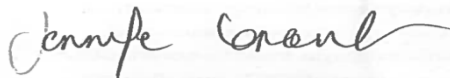
<https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/hsc-sqsd-2-13.pdf>

We are in the process of updating this circular to reflect the inclusion of HSTs and will advise you when this is complete but for the meantime the process as set out in the circular will be followed for HSTs as for TAs.

In order to meet the timescales set out in the circular, I should be grateful if you would complete the attached questionnaire advising on Equality and Human Rights issues and return no later than **18 July 2016**.

**This Information will be used to inform the Equality Screening.**

Many Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Lamont". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "t".

Jennifer Lamont  
Quality Regulation Policy &  
Legislation Branch