

From the Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Michael McBride**



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

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 14/11**

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**Subject: NICE Technology Appraisal TA 191  
Capecitabine for the treatment of Advanced Gastric  
Cancer**

**Circular Reference: HSC (SQSD) (NICE) 14/11**

**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:**

NICE recommends capecitabine, taken with platinum-containing drugs, for some people with stomach cancer. People should be able to have capecitabine if:  
the stomach cancer is advanced **and** they have not had treatment for advanced stomach cancer before **and** the cancer cannot be removed with an operation.

**Enquiries:**

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:  
Standards & Guidelines Quality Unit  
DHSSPS  
Room D1.4  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

[SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:SGU-NICEGuidance@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Date of Issue: 17 May 2011**

**Related documents:**

See point 5 below

**Superseded documents**

None

**Status of Contents:**

Action

**Implementation:**

To put plans in place, to facilitate implementation of this guidance, within 3 months of this endorsement circular

**Additional copies:**

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

**Dear Colleagues**

**NICE Technology Appraisal TA191 - Capecitabine for the Treatment of Advanced Gastric Cancer**

NICE recommends capecitabine, taken with platinum-containing drugs, for some people with stomach cancer.

People should be able to have capecitabine if:

- the stomach cancer is advanced **and**
- they have not had treatment for advanced stomach cancer before **and**
- the cancer cannot be removed with an operation.

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

The full NICE guidance is available for download at:

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191>

**The HSC sector also should note that;**

1. The Department expects the HSC sector to put plans in place, to facilitate implementation of this guidance, within 3 months of this endorsement circular;
2. NICE did not produce a costing template however it is estimated that the implementation of this appraisal is unlikely to result in a significant change in resource use in HSC;
3. 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;
4. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191> and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;
5. NICE is in the process of developing related guidance listed on page 1 of the NICE Quick Reference Guide which can be accessed at: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English>
6. **All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed 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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice_guidance_01-06.pdf)

*Michael McBride*

**DR MICHAEL McBRIDE**  
**Chief Medical Officer**