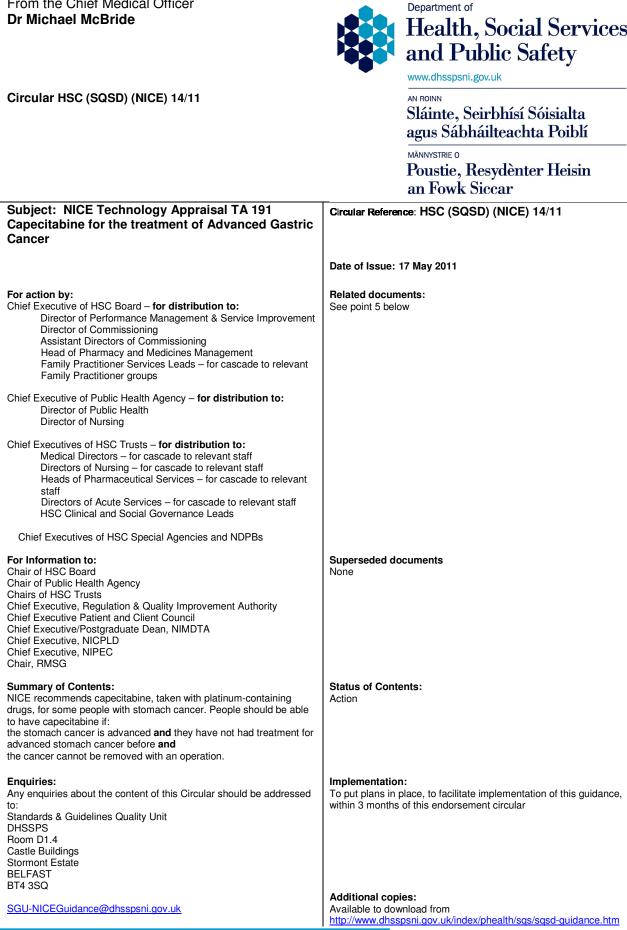
From the Chief Medical Officer



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Working for a Healthier People



## **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: <u>http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191</u>

## 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 <u>http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191</u> 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: <a href="http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English">http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA191/QuickRefGuide/pdf/English</a>

6. All NICE guidance endorsed by the Department to date can be accessed on the DHSSPS website at: <u>http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance</u>

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: <u>http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/nice\_guidance\_01-06.pdf</u>

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DR MICHAEL McBRIDE Chief Medical Officer