Dear Colleagues

NICE Clinical Guideline No 62 – Antenatal Care

The advice in the NICE guideline covers:

- the routine care that all healthy women can expect to receive during their pregnancy.

It does not specifically look at:

women who are pregnant with more than one baby, women with certain medical conditions or women who develop a health problem during their pregnancy.
DHSSPS advises that this appraisal guidance is valid for Northern Ireland and endorses it for implementation in HSC. However, the reference to ‘informed choice as to whether they wish to continue with the pregnancy’ should be read as taking account of the NI legal position.

The full NICE clinical guideline is available for download at: http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG62

The HSC sector also should note that;

1. This is an update of clinical guideline No 6 – Antenatal Care: Routine Care for the Healthy Pregnant Woman, produced by NICE in October 2003;

2. The Department expects HSC organisations to take account of this guidance in the planning and delivery of services to pregnant women;

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. This guideline will be reviewed by NICE in March 2010;

5. NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance. These are available at http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG62 and include costing tools, implementation advice and audit criteria to monitor local practice;

6. NICE has developed related guidance on pregnancy and this can be accessed at:

   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG45
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG13
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG63
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG70
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG55
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH11
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG37
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA156
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH10
   http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH1

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) 01/006 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