

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dr Anne Kilgallen

Circular HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG64) 21/17

Subject: NICE Public Health Guideline NG64 - Drug misuse prevention: targeted interventions

For action by:

Chief Executive of HSC Board – **for distribution to:**

All HSC Board Directors – for cascade to relevant staff

Director of Integrated Care, HSC Board – **for cascade to:**

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 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 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
Directors of Social Services – for cascade to relevant staff
Directors of Finance – for cascade to relevant staff
AHP Leads – for cascade to relevant staff

Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority – **for cascade to:** relevant independent healthcare establishments

Chief Executives of HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs

For Information to:

Chair of HSC Board
Chair of Public Health Agency
Chairs of HSC Trusts
Chair of RQIA
NICE Implementation Facilitator NI
Members of NI NICE Managers' Forum

Summary of Contents: This guideline covers targeted interventions to prevent misuse of drugs, including illegal drugs, 'legal highs' and prescription-only medicines. It aims to prevent or delay harmful use of drugs in children, young people and adults who are most likely to start using drugs or who are already experimenting or using drugs occasionally.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:
Quality Regulation and Improvement Unit
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BT4 3SQ

SGU-NICEGuidance@health-ni.gov.uk

Circular Reference: **HSC (SQSD) (NICE NG64) 21/17**

Date of Issue: 09 May 2017

Related documents:

HSC (SQSD) 37/15
HSC (SQSD) (NICE CG51) 59/08
HSC (SQSD) (NICE CG52) 60/08

Superseded documents

None

Status of Contents:

Action

Implementation:

As per circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15

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 Colleagues

NICE Public Health Guideline NG64 - Drug misuse prevention: targeted interventions

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng64>

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has formally considered it for applicability in Northern Ireland.

Decision:

All recommendations in guideline NG64 - Drug misuse prevention: targeted interventions are to be taken into account in designing and delivering services that will help prevent misuse of drugs, including illegal drugs, 'legal highs' and prescription-only medicines.

Action Required:

In accordance with the process outlined in circular HSC (SQSD) 37/15, the following initial actions should be taken.

1. HSCB/PHA
 - a. Identify a Professional Lead who will consider the commissioning implications of the Public Health Guideline and co-ordinate with any other relevant commissioning teams.
 - b. The PHA will identify other relevant stakeholders and networks and disseminate as appropriate, typically within two weeks of receipt.
 - c. The HSC Board will ensure that relevant guidance is sent to the appropriate Family Practitioners.
2. HSC Trusts
 - a. Proceed with targeted dissemination, agree a clinical/management lead to coordinate implementation and consider what has to be done to achieve implementation using a risk based assessment and baseline review as appropriate to support planning. These initial actions should be undertaken within a three month period.
3. RQIA
 - a. Disseminate the Guideline to the independent sector as appropriate.
4. HSC Special Agencies and NDPBs
 - a. Take account of this Guideline in training and other developments as appropriate.

To inform the planning process, please find attached details from the Departmental review. You should consider and take account of other relevant policies and strategies in your planning, as well as any legislative / policy caveats identified in the course of the Departmental review.

The detailed arrangements for implementation, monitoring and assurance can be found in circular (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/safety-quality-and-standards-circulars-2015-2016>).

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>).

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Anne Kilgallen" with a horizontal line under the name.

Dr Anne Kilgallen
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

Endorsed NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Public Health Guideline – NG64 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng64
Title	Drug misuse prevention: targeted interventions
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline covers targeted interventions to prevent misuse of drugs, including illegal drugs, ‘legal highs’ and prescription-only medicines. It aims to prevent or delay harmful use of drugs in children, young people and adults who are most likely to start using drugs or who are already experimenting or using drugs occasionally.</p> <p>It includes recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering drug misuse prevention activities as part of existing services • assessing whether someone is vulnerable to drug misuse • providing skills training for children and young people who are vulnerable to drug misuse • providing information to adults who are vulnerable to drug misuse • providing information about drug use in settings that people who use drugs or are at risk of using drugs may attend <p>This guideline does not cover broader activities, both population-level (universal) and targeted, that aim to build people's skills, resilience and ability to make positive decisions about their health and which address the wider determinants of health.</p> <p>Additionally, this guideline does not cover treatment of drugs misuse (see NICE Clinical Guidelines CG51 - Drug misuse in over 16s: psychosocial interventions and CG52 - Drug misuse in over 16s: opioid detoxification endorsed by DoH in October 2008) https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/nice-endorsed-clinical-guidelines-20082009</p>
Related strategically relevant policies	<p>New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/alcohol-and-drugs-misuse</p> <p>Bamford Action Plan 2012-15 https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/bamford-action-plan-2012-15.pdf</p>

	<p>Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services – A Service Model https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/camhs-service-model_0.pdf</p>
Inter-Departmental interest	None at policy/ legislative level
Legislative / policy caveats	<p>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.</p> <p>This guidance refers to some NICE Public Health Guidance which pre-dates the introduction of the DoH process for endorsing Public Health guidelines. All Public Health Guidance endorsed by DoH can be found at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/nice-public-health-guidance</p>