

Minutes

National Clinical Effectiveness Committee

Department of Health

20th October 2022, 14:00 – 16.00, in person meeting,

Room 7.04, Department of Health, Miesian Plaza, 50 - 58 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, D02 XW14

Members Present:

Professor Gerry Fitzpatrick

Chair, National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC)

Mr Gary Kiernan

Mental Health Commission

Dr Cathal O’Keeffe

State Claims Agency (Head of Clinical Risk)

Ms Brigid Doherty

Patient representation

Ms Collette Tully

National Office for Clinical Audit

Dr Siobhán Ní Bhríain

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer (CCO), Health Service Executive (HSE) (from 14:47)

Ms Michelle O’Neill

Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)

Mr Donal Clancy

Health Insurance Council

Apologies:

Professor Colette Cowan

Forum of Hospital Groups CEOs

Mr John Hurley

Private Hospitals Association

Dr Elaine Breslin

Health Products Regulatory Authority

Dr Geraldine Shaw

Office Nursing and Midwifery Services, HSE

Ms Karen Greene

Office of the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), Department of Health

Dr Máiréad O’Driscoll

Health Research Board

Ms Christine Donnelly

Patient representation

Professor Anne Marie Brady

Nursing and Midwifery Education Bodies

Mr Richard Lodge

Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum

In attendance:

Dr Barbara Clyne

Department of General Practice, RCSI

Secretariat – Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU), Department of Health:

Rosarie Lynch,

Head of Clinical Effectiveness and Antimicrobial Resistance, NPSO

Deirdre Holland, Michael Carton

Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU), NPSO

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed all members to the first in person meeting of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) since 2020. All present were invited to introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Apologies were noted as listed above.

2. Conflict of interest declarations (NCEC members)

The members present at the meeting were invited to identify if they had any Conflict of Interest and a verbal pause held for same. No verbal declarations were made.

3. Minutes

The Minutes were reviewed, and two amendments were agreed following correspondence from one of the members. It was noted the action points listed in the minutes have been completed. NCEC members agreed that, including the two amendments agreed, the minutes were an accurate reflection of the meeting on 5th May 2022.

4. Matters Arising

- a) The head of CEU gave an update on timelines and informed the committee of the receipt of a Notification of Interest for a clinical concussion guideline
- b) The head of CEU met with Declan Devane and agreed to proceed with reactivating the Guideline update processes working group. Declan agreed to chair the group and some suggestions on membership are being progressed by the CEU. Strategic thinking for the group will be covered in item 10 on the agenda.
- c) Modus Operandi (for sign off). It was agreed following feedback from the committee that the draft minutes of meetings would be circulated with 2 weeks following an NCEC meeting. It was also agreed that Action points and communications to be completed with 1 week.

5. Overview of current work programme

The current list of NCGs/NCAs published and in development was circulated prior to meeting.

29 Clinical Guidelines have been approved by NCEC since its formation in 2013.

In 2022, two new guidelines were approved:

- Guideline 28: Stop Smoking (January 2022)
- Guideline 29: Unexpected Intraoperative Life Threatening Haemorrhage (May 2022)

A guideline submission was received on 15th October 2022 and QA is to commence on the Infection Prevention and Control, previously called Healthcare Associated Infections, (this guideline will encompass updates of NCG Nos. 2 and 3 on MRSA and *C. difficile*). This is a large document and the plan is to complete the QA and present to the committee at the December meeting

A notification of Interest has been received for a guideline on obesity

Action – a status update for each clinical guideline to be presented at next meeting.

The committee discussed the sustainability of guidelines and criteria for updating Clinical Guidelines. Some issues that can impact negatively on the implementation and sustainability of CGs include how guidelines are implemented outside of normal working hours and the significant proportion (38%) of

surgical activity that takes place in private hospitals. The importance of clinical audit in all settings was also highlighted.

Action - It was agreed that the issue of commissioning audits would be teased out at the strategic workshop in December.

6. National Clinical Guidelines

a) Rapid Update report for:

NCG No. 7 Diagnosis, Staging and Treatment of Patient with Breast Cancer (*for consideration / decision*)

Discussion: A report was circulated prior to the meeting. Some discussion of the benefits of publishing a guideline endorsed by NCEC followed the presentation of the agenda item. In cases such as this where guidelines have not been through the NCEC QA process, it is appropriate for readers to be redirected to the relevant website for (in this case the NCCP website). It was agreed that some consideration should be given to how uptake of CGs by the system could be measured (to be included in strategic planning session in December 2022).

Decision: the committee agreed to the update of Guideline 7 Diagnosis, Staging and Treatment of Patient with Breast Cancer

b) Notice of Intent:

The committee were informed of the plan to submit an Adult Obesity National Clinical Guideline for Ireland (*for information*)

7. Emerging Investigator Award: *Evidence synthesis and translation of findings for national clinical guideline development: addressing the needs and preferences of guideline development groups*

Dr Barbara Clyne, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) attended this part of the meeting as an invited presenter.

The chair thanked Dr Clyne for her presentation on behalf of the committee and commended the rigour and international best practice that underpinned the work. The head of CEU acknowledged the work of Sarah Condell in the

Action – slides to be circulated to the committee

8. National Standards for Clinical Practice Guidance guideline update processes

The head of CEU brought the updating these guidelines to the attention of the

Discussion: Discussion also took place around resources required as part of the update process and the need for the update process to be embedded into the *NCEC Framework for Endorsement of National Clinical Guidelines*, and the *NCEC Guideline Developer's Manual*; both of which will need to be expanded to include the new processes.

9. NCEC Events

- a) Launches – NCA No. 2 and NCG No. 29
- b) NPSO Conference

Discussion: the head of CEU updated the committee on the success of the NPSO conference held on 11th October 2022 in Dublin Castle.

10. NCEC strategic workshop

Discussion: The committee discussed several aspects of the work of NCEC as a basis for how the agenda for the planned strategic workshop in December. The discussion included the NCEC ToR, the role of clinical audit in implementing CGs and an example of success as a case study.

Decision: The CEU to collate feedback and prepare a suggested agenda for sign off by the chair.

Action 2: CEU to engage with guideline and audit development groups as appropriate to operationalise the time frames into the NCEC Framework for Endorsement of National Clinical Guidelines and Audits.

11. AOB

The committee requested that CEU look into the possibility of using a proprietary system for managing the work of the committee.

Decision: The CEU to collate feedback and prepare a suggested agenda for sign off by the chair.

12. NCEC Meeting Dates

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for 1st December from 14:00 – 16:00. A strategic planning workshop will take place from 10:30 – 13:00 on 1st December.

Agreed actions

No.	Summary	Responsible person/s
1.	Status Update on NCEC Guidelines to be presented at next meeting	CEU
2.	Commissioning of audits to be considered as part of NCEC Strategic Review (Dec 2022)	CEU
3.	“Emerging Investor Award” Presentation to be circulated to NCEC Members	CEU
4.		

