

Westminster Health Forum Keynote Seminar: The changing role of NICE

Timing: Morning, 19th October 2010

Venue: Great Hall, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP

Agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Professor the Lord Kakkar, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Research
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Health care improvement and the pharmaceutical industry: challenges and opportunities**
Professor David Taylor, Professor of Pharmaceutical and Public Health Policy, The School of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical and Public Health Policy, University of London
- 9.25 - 9.40 **Balancing clinical need and cost effectiveness**
To what extent is NICE (The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) ensuring the best use of resources so that patients receive the greatest benefit? Are spending priorities reviewed regularly enough? Is there enough focus on disinvestment in order to save money on products that do not offer value for money? What affordable measures can be taken to make drugs that do not meet the criteria for cost-effectiveness available to end-of-life patients? Has the Department of Health responded adequately to the Richards Report's call for a national audit of the demand for unfunded drugs and on the outcome of treatments being developed?
Professor Adrian Towse, Director, Office of Health Economics (OHE)
- 9.40 - 9.55 **Tackling inequalities in the commissioning of medicine and delivering the patient choice agenda**
How can inequalities in the national provision of medicine be tackled in order to ensure a consistent approach? What is the role of commissioning in providing appropriate and cost-effective medicine? Are healthcare professionals and patients fully aware of the complexities of purchasing additional or top-up medicine? What more can be done by healthcare professionals - including primary care staff and GPs - to ensure that patients are able to make fully informed decisions? What role do online resources such as NHS Choices, NHS Evidence and other non-public-sector information sources play in providing information to patients in addition to that which they receive from healthcare professionals?
Julia Manning, Chief Executive, 2020health.org
- 9.55 - 10.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.55 **The future of research and development**
Is government funding into applied research and further academic study of medicine sufficient? How can people be encouraged into healthcare science research? Is there a need to move towards a greater use of scientific evidence and research in appraisals? Is there typically sufficient data to enable NICE to effectively evaluate products?
John Jeans, Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Operating Officer, Medical Research Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Professor the Lord Kakkar, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Research
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Nadine Dorries MP, Member, Health Select Committee
- 11.35 - 12.00 **Value-based pricing and medicine appraisal**
What criteria does NICE use when setting the threshold range for cost per QALY (quality-adjusted life year)? Should different conditions have different costs per QALYs? Should NICE call for further evidence and research in their decisions?
Professor Karl Claxton, Department of Economics and Centre for Health Economics, University of York
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.25 **The appraisal process: encouraging innovation**
The UK is a world leader in medical research; how can we ensure we are global leaders in the provision of the most advanced drugs? Are NICE's guidelines and thresholds appropriate and flexible enough to provide opportunities for innovation? Is there enough emphasis on the timeliness of information and the provision of detailed feedback within the NICE decision-making process? How can the development of new medicines be streamlined so costs are kept low? Are NICE offering sufficient advice and support to newer companies to facilitate competition in the sector? In the view of the ABPI, what are the likely implications of introducing value-based pricing of medicine?
Dr Richard Barker, Director General, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **NICE in a changing landscape**
Following the publication of the White Paper and the proposed change in emphasis of NICE's role in public health, what does the future hold for the organisation? How is NICE going to meet objectives to encourage innovation and medical advancement? What processes can be put in place to ensure the overall standard of care improves? How can inappropriate variation in clinical practice be reduced? To what extent is further reform needed? Is there sufficient opportunity to call for further research within the NICE decision-making process? Is there evidence of a decline in variation of medicine uptake, and 'where next' for medicine appraisals?
Dr Carole Longson, Director, Centre for Health Technology Evaluation, NICE
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Nadine Dorries MP, Member of Health Select Committee
Michael Ryan, Senior Producer, Westminster Health Forum