

Name of topic: Reducing dental caries in deprived areas

The topic above has been suggested for possible inclusion in NICE’s work programme. An independent panel, which includes patients and lay people, will consider this topic and score it against formal criteria to decide how important it is that NICE develops guidance on it in the future.

To inform the work of the panel, we are contacting patient groups to ask for their views on the importance of this topic. We would be grateful if you could answer any questions below that you would like to respond to.

A. About you:

1. Your name : **Mr Peter Sanders**

2. Name of organisation: **Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK)**

3. Job title or position : **Chairman, Lay Advisory Group**

4. Are you (please tick all that apply)

- an employee of a topic relevant patient or voluntary organisation
- a patient with a condition relevant to the topic
- a carer of a patient with a condition relevant to the topic
- a health professional with expertise in this area
- other (please specify) **Lay member**

B. Importance of the proposed topic

1. How **important** do you think it is for patients/the public that NICE develops guidance on the proposed topic? Tick one:

- HIGH PRIORITY MEDIUM PRIORITY LOW PRIORITY

2. If high priority, please explain why

3. If low priority, are there other more important topics in this area that patient or the public would consider NICE should develop guidance on

- Yes** **No**

(If yes: please state alternative topic suggestion)

C. Population affected

Does the proposed guidance address a condition or public health action which patients or the public associate with any of the following, either in the population as a whole or in particular sub-groups?

significant morbidity (ill health) **Yes** **No**

significant mortality (death) **Yes** **No**

significant numbers of people affected by any of the following:

avoidable disease **Yes** **No**

disability **Yes** **No**

injury **Yes** **No**

early death **Yes** **No**

If you have answered yes to any of the above, please explain why

The level of oral disease in deprived areas is higher than those found in the more affluent areas. Current levels of dental caries within the population, although lower than say 20 years ago, mean that certain subgroups still suffer considerably from oral pain and sepsis. These problems lead to time out of school and the workplace. Furthermore, dental caries is preventable.

If you think that particular subgroups are affected please state the subgroup(s)

Individuals from the lower socio-economic groups have consistently higher levels of oral disease. Due to the socio-economic backgrounds, migrants, the homeless and certain subgroups of ethnic minorities have worse oral health.

D. Likely resource impact

Does the proposed guidance relate to one or more interventions which:

1. the NHS could disinvest from (stop spending on) to free up resources for use elsewhere in the NHS?

Yes **No**

2. might have a large impact on NHS or other societal resources (financial and other, e.g. social costs)?

Yes **No**

3. address an area where better evidence of cost-effectiveness could lead to savings e.g. in delivery of quality services or interventions

Yes **No**

If you have ticked any of the above, please explain

Current preventive regimes are ill thought out and based on poor or inadequate scientific evidence. The current push for individualistic preventive regimes based within dental practices is lacking in evidence.

E. Variation in practice

Is there any evidence and/or reason to believe that, in the absence of guidance on this topic, there is or will be

inappropriate clinical practice (e.g. inappropriate treatments being provided)

Yes **No**

inappropriate variation in clinical practice (e.g. inappropriate treatments being provided **by some individuals**)

Yes **No**

inappropriate variation in access to **clinical interventions** (e.g. between geographical areas or social groups)

Yes **No**

inappropriate variation in access to **public health actions** (e.g. between geographical areas or social groups)

Yes **No**

A limited or lack of improvement in the effectiveness of public health actions

Yes **No**

If you have ticked any of the above, please explain

As identified previously, the current push for individualistic preventive oral health programmes are lacking in scientific evidence. Furthermore, there is considerable variation according to socio-economic grouping of the users of dental services, i.e. the beneficiaries of practice based preventive regimes. Those from the lower socio-economic groups, i.e. the ones for which the interventions are being targeted, access dental care more infrequently than the more affluent groups.

F. Timeliness and urgency

1. Are there any factors not covered in earlier sections that suggest that guidance on this topic **should** be produced as a matter of urgency (e.g. significant public concern, a new disease, an important new area for public health action)?

Yes No

If YES, please list the factors(s) that suggest an urgent need for this guidance
Current government policy is claiming to increase practice based prevention. There is little evidence to support such a move.

2. Are there any factors not covered above that suggest guidance on this topic **should not** be produced a matter of urgency (eg up-to-date guidance already available; more appropriate that this topic be investigated by another organisation etc)

Yes No

If YES, please list the factors(s) that suggest this guidance is not urgent

G. Other comments

Please use the space below for any other comments relating to the selection or non selection of this topic for future NICE guidance

The impact of lost time from work and school affects socio-economic groups disproportionately: to reduce inequalities preventive regimes that are scientifically based should be adopted as a priority.

Thank you for your time.

For more information about the NICE topic selection process, please visit the NICE website <http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=295373> or contact:

Lindsey Wilby in the Topic Selection Team on 0161 209 3454.

For support in completing this questionnaire, contact:
Joanna Pearl, NICE Patient and Public Involvement Programme at Joanna.pearl@nie.org.uk or on 0207 067 4767 (weekdays excluding Tuesdays)