

Dear Colleague

NICE guidance IPG666: Reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues

A Scottish Executive Health Department letter sent to all NHS Board Infection Control Managers in 2007 recommended the implementation of NICE interventional procedures guidance for CJD (IPG196).

In January 2020, IPG196 was replaced by IPG666 – “Reducing the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) from surgical instruments used for interventional procedures on high-risk tissues”. One of the key changes to the NICE guidance is that it no longer recommends the maintenance of separate streams of neurosurgical instruments for those born before and after 1st January 1997, on the following basis:

- The evidence on cost effectiveness does not support introducing systems to maintain separate sets of neuroendoscopes and reusable surgical instruments for use on high-risk tissues for people born after 1996
- Removing the requirement to use different instruments on high-risk tissues for people born after 1996 would not markedly increase the risk of surgical transmission of CJD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this change was not formally communicated to NHS Boards at that time. This letter is to confirm that following discussion with the Managed Service Network for Neurosurgery and representatives from key agencies including Public Health Scotland and ARHAI, we are content that the updated guidance is appropriate and that NICE IPG666 should be implemented across Scotland.

In April 2022, NSS Health Facilities Scotland published an [addendum](#) to the best practice guidance SHTM 01-01 “Decontamination of medical devices in a Central Decontamination Unit” to reflect the changes to the NICE guidance.

**From the Chief Medical
Officer for Scotland
Professor Sir Gregor
Smith and
Chief Nursing Officer
Alex McMahon**

7 March 2023

SGHD/CMO(2023)2

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Directors of Public Health
Nurse Directors, NHS Boards
Primary Care Leads
NHS Board Infectious Disease
Consultants
Consultant Physicians
Consultants in Public Health
Paediatric Departments

For information

Public Health Scotland

Further Enquiries to:

Cara Lewis
Infectious Diseases Policy
Health Protection Division
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Email:

healthprotection@gov.scot

NHS Boards should familiarise themselves with the content of IPG666, which is available to download [here](#), and ensure that they implement the recommendations within the guidance.

Yours sincerely

Gregor Smith

Alex McMahon

Professor Sir Gregor Smith
Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

Alex McMahon
Chief Nursing Officer