

Developing a scope for a NICE clinical guideline

Role of the scope in NICE clinical guidelines

“The scope defines the process by which the centre will achieve a clinical implemental product for the NHS” (Ch 2, NICE guidelines manual).

What does scoping achieve



It helps the guideline developers identify

1. the clinical problem(s)
2. possible solutions
3. potential hazards

Scoping tasks

We divide scoping into three tasks;

1. Pre-scoping - understanding the issues
2. Developing clinical questions / protocols – outlining how these issues will be dealt with
3. Searching – calculating resources needed to deal with these issues

Information

What we need to know at the start of the process?

- Current care pathway(s)
- Variation(s) in practice
- Important patient-related outcomes
- Key clinical decision points/ Health economic analysis



What we have to do

Typically we will be asked to cover all, or part, of a patient care pathway, including

- From prediction to treatment via risk factors, assessment, prevention etc
- Additional topics may be added if there are specific issues at play, co-morbidities, complications etc

Neonatal jaundice

Clinical Guideline

May 2010

Funded to produce guidelines for the NHS by NICE

- Prevention – primary and/or ~~secondary~~
- Risk factors
- Prediction
- Recognition
- Formal assessment /
investigation of causes
- ~~Specific cases/ complications~~
- Treatment

Additional considerations

The NCC-WCH also needs to consider several different, and sometimes competing, factors which can influence the decision-making process



Additional considerations

These include

- Equalities legislation and equity considerations
- Optimising resource use and outcomes
- Change in practice and consensus
- Government priorities and other clinical guidance

What we do next?

We draw up clinical questions for each topic

For example: What is the effectiveness of prophylactic phototherapy compared with usual care in the prevention of neonatal jaundice in pre-term neonates?

Different types of phototherapy



Clinical question on prophylactic phototherapy

What is the effectiveness of prophylactic phototherapy compared with usual care in the prevention of neonatal jaundice in pre-term neonates?

Population =	Pre-term neonates
Intervention =	Prophylactic phototherapy
Comparison =	Usual care
Outcomes =	Bilirubin levels at 24, 48, 72 hours

Protocols

Expand on PICO by adding information on

- Objectives of review
- Type of study to be considered
- Dates for searching to cover
- Other specific considerations



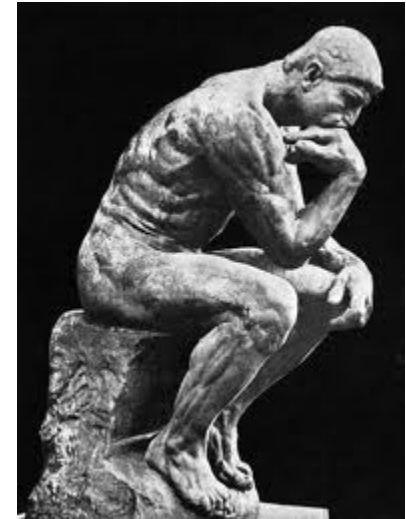
Things to consider

Need as much detail as possible

Are multiple reviews (questions) needed?

Potential impact on care pathway / clinical decision points

Level of clinical / lay member input



Searching and “mapping the evidence”

We run a Medline only search typically just on

- Population
- Intervention

Use search filters for specific types of study

This gives us a ball-park figure of the amount and type of evidence we will need to deal with.

Searches on Phototherapy in neonatal jaundice identified 141 refs

Searching and “mapping the evidence”

A quick overview of these records indicates

- what the evidence covered
- whether a meta-analysis is possible
- if sub-group analyses would be needed.

Using this ‘map of evidence’ the clinicians / lay members can inform the reviewing team on the priority topics of interest



Resource calculations

Do a scoping search for all questions to ascertain how long development time should be (typically 70 weeks)

Need to be creative in use of

- Methodology
- Inclusion criteria
- Complexity of reviewing from searching to writing up

Tips

If we were doing the “Neonatal jaundice” guideline now, we would find that a Cochrane review on prophylactic phototherapy for pre-term neonates was published in 2011.

This review would form the basis of any discussions with the GDG and commissioners.

“Take home points”

Time and effort in scoping

- Helps ensure transparency
- Identifies most useful questions
- Is useful in managing expectations
- Can be resource intensive
- Is always a gamble



Any questions

