

Statement regarding NICE Guidelines - October 2009

In view of the fact that the recently announced NICE Guidelines have been designed primarily for England and Wales, and in light of these and the recent statement released by the AOP, there may be a danger that some conflict could arise between these and the existing Scottish CCI glaucoma care pathway as recommended by the Scottish Government Health Directorate:

(http://www.glaucoma-association.com/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=1441&=fromcfc&tt=article&lang=en&site_id=176)

therefore, for the avoidance of any doubt, the nice guidelines should represent the default position in the absence of any supporting diagnostic procedures as provided for under the GOS guidelines in Scotland.

The regulatory framework of the GOS contract in Scotland provides for repeat applanation tonometry, repeat visual fields and repeat Volk lens examination, all of which can be provided at the absolute discretion of the individual practitioner and all of which should be deployed in providing a safe strategy for ongoing monitoring or referral.

All practitioners in Scotland should be reminded that the GOS contract is designed to maintain the very best patient care within the primary care community and that in order to fulfil their contractual obligations all available diagnostic procedures should be applied before adopting the default position.