

# INVOLVE

Promoting public involvement  
in NHS, public health and  
social care research

(formerly Consumers in NHS  
Research)

## Consultation Response

### **National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) - Consultation on the role of regional teams in the new organisation**

NICE invited comments from key stakeholders on how the nine regional teams can best support the functions of the new organisation. Responses were invited to specific questions posed:

#### **1. How can teams at a regional level best support NICE in its core business of developing, disseminating and supporting implementation of guidance?**

INVOLVE has experience of:

- Working at national, regional and local levels
- Gathering and disseminating examples of good practice of public involvement in research
- Supporting organisations and individuals to implement good practice

From this perspective we see that there is definite potential for regional teams to channel a two way flow of information between NICE and its end users. Regional teams could offer information, advice and support at a regional/local level with the dissemination and implementation of guidance. Regional teams could also develop contact networks and systematically gather information from organisations within the regions which could be fed back to NICE. This could also create an additional avenue for the public to contribute to the work of NICE, complementary to the work carried out by the Patient Involvement Unit.

## **2. What support would your organisation find most useful from a regional team to facilitate the implementation of NICE guidance?**

INVOLVE is a national advisory body funded by the Department of Health to promote and support public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. The support we would find most useful in terms of facilitating the implementation of NICE guidance would be if the regional teams actively promoted and supported the value of public involvement in research. When members of the public get actively involved in the research process they are also likely to take an active part in the dissemination of research findings and an active interest in the implementation of research. Members of the public generally have access to organisations, networks and communities that health care practitioners cannot otherwise easily access. Members of the public are the ultimate end users of research and as such have a vested interest in ensuring that research is relevant to their needs and that research findings lead to improvements in health care practice. Actively encouraging public involvement in research therefore promotes the core business of NICE.

## **3. Should the regional function encompass the implementation of NICE guidance on both clinical and public health topics?**

It is our experience that the challenges of getting research into practice are commonly reported across the fields of public health, NHS and social care research. There is therefore a need to provide support on both clinical and public health topics. Clearly the existing regional teams (formerly of the HDA) cannot be expected to take on the additional role of supporting the implementation of clinical guidance. NICE's paper, 'Supporting the Implementation of NICE Guidance', sets out a plan of how NICE and its partners will provide a coordinated strategy to support implementation of guidance. The future development of a regional function should be considered by NICE in the context of this strategy.

## **4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?**

There is undoubtedly great potential for regional teams to support the core business of NICE. We strongly recommend that NICE retains and develops the role of regional teams to build upon the good work that has already been begun by the HDA's regional teams.

INVOLVE has worked with both NICE and the HDA in the past. The issue of public involvement in research is complementary to much of the work that could be undertaken by the regional teams and we therefore look forward to working with them in the future.

**INVOLVE**  
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