



➤ **Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management- Updated guidance (NG196)**

NICE guidance on atrial fibrillation has been updated. Changes include use of tools to calculate risk of bleeding when considering use of anticoagulants, role of newer anti-clotting drugs, and use of treatments that aim to destroy or isolate the abnormal sources of electrical impulses in the heart that may be driving AF (ablation).

➤ **Shared decision-making guidance and training**

New guidelines on [shared decision-making](#) have been published. A [learning package](#) for healthcare professionals to support implementation of the guideline has been produced by Keele University and NICE.

The recommendations advise that shared decision-making should be part of everyday practice across all healthcare settings. The guideline sets out ways for healthcare professionals to work with people using services to make decisions about their treatment and care, ensuring this is best practice at an organisational level. A [standards framework](#) for shared decision-making support tools has also been published, including PDAs.

➤ **Dietitian referrals**

Last year when the pandemic started the difficulty in seeing patients face to face and obtaining accurate weights for a MUST score was recognised. Since the dietitians did not want to prevent the ability to refer to their services they accepted referrals for nutrition support patients without a MUST score. Since the inclusion of a MUST score is key information for a dietetic referral they are now transitioning back to requiring this information in line with the Six Steps Guidance for Appropriate Prescribing of ONS <http://gp.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk/downloads/Med-Ops/guidelines/Nutrition/Six-steps-to-appropriate-prescribing.pdf> . This will become effective as of July 1st.

➤ **Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) consultation**

Oral Nutritional Supplements are available on the NHS and are classified as borderline substances. They are regulated by the ACBS committee who determine which products will be available on the NHS. Over the years the types of products that have been produced and approved by the ACBS committee has increased substantially. It is timely that a consultation is being undertaken to ensure the products available on the NHS are appropriate.

Your support of the following changes proposed within the consultation aimed at reducing potential confusion and prescribing errors would be welcomed:

- a. Standardise the pack size to 125mls and 200mls only
- b. Only 1 size available for the same product
- c. Limiting 1 kcal/ml products for intestinal failure patients only
- d. Consistent criteria for once per day products
- e. The use of “complete” and “fibre” in the product description is ceased as this is misleading.

The consultation is open until 1<sup>st</sup> August and only takes a couple of minutes to complete

<https://consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/5fb3f8628f8058669149310e>