

NHS Evidence is Changing



Dear colleague,

Health and social care is changing and NHS Evidence is changing with it.

Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS promises an 'information revolution' for patients and professionals to help deliver high quality health and social care services. In the new system, information needs to be accessible to all, relevant and well structured.

NHS Evidence (www.evidence.nhs.uk) makes quality-assured, best-practice information freely and easily accessible. It is the place to go to find out what best practice looks like as well as how to deliver it.

From May 2011, we will be broadening the types of information available and signposting users more clearly to the very best resources. All health and social care staff want to provide the highest standard of care to their patients and better access to good information will help make clinical excellence a reality.

This leaflet tells you more about the exciting changes ahead and how NHS Evidence is putting staff and patients at the heart of the information revolution.

Dr Gillian Leng

Chief Operating Officer, NHS Evidence



NHS Evidence...so far

- A simple search provides access to more than 250,000 health and social care resources.
- More than 700,000 unique visitors each month.
- 1.3 million searches performed each month.
- Two thirds of users are clinicians.
- 80 per cent of users believe NHS Evidence helps them to find the most up-to-date information.
- 75 per cent of users believe NHS Evidence improves the quality of information available.
- More than 90 per cent of users believe the information they access through NHS Evidence is robust.



The Information Revolution and NHS Evidence

Greater choice and control for patients

NHS Evidence is designed for health and social care professionals but is also accessible to patients, and provides information to aid the doctor/patient interaction. NHS Evidence empowers patients by enabling them to access trusted information to make informed decisions about their care. By using NHS Evidence, patients will be better informed about their condition, the lifestyle options which might improve it, and the treatments available.

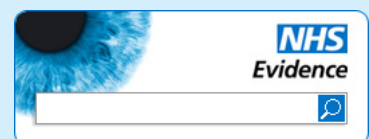
Only patient information accredited under the DH Information Standard is available through NHS Evidence. Patients can be reassured that they are accessing credible information, and health and social care professionals can feel confident about recommending NHS Evidence.

Patients want to be involved in their care and understand what service they can expect from their health and social care providers. In May, NICE quality standards - showing what high quality care should look like for particular conditions - will be accessible through NHS Evidence.



'I strongly encourage organisations to download the NHS Evidence search bar to their website or intranet so staff can quickly and easily gain access to reliable and trustworthy information.'

Sir David Nicholson,
NHS Chief Executive.



<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/Downloads.aspx>

Empowering health and social care professionals

Access to specialised content

The simple search facility on NHS Evidence provides health and social care professionals with access to specialised content, including national collections of evidence in areas such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular and commissioning.

Other specialised content being introduced from May includes a new focus on medicines information. For the first time, users will be able to search key sources simultaneously – including British National Formulary (BNF), National electronic Library for Medicines (NeLM) and National Prescribing Centre (NPC) – to quickly and easily access information pertinent to their professional practice.

The screenshot shows the NHS Evidence interface. At the top, there are links for 'Sign in / Register' and the NHS Evidence logo. A search bar contains the word 'Stroke'. Below the search bar, there is a 'Close topic view' button. The main content area is titled 'Summary: Stroke'. It includes a paragraph of text: 'Stroke, or cerebrovascular accident (CVA), is sudden damage to BRAIN tissue caused either by a lack of blood supply or rupture of a blood vessel (see ISCHAEMIC STROKE). The affected brain cells die and the parts of the body they control, or receive sensory messages from, cease to function. Each year, about 150,000 people in the UK have a stroke, most of whom are aged over 65. [Copyright © A & C Black Publishers Ltd. Powered by credoreference.com]'. Below this is a 'Primary Care Summary' section. To the right of the text is a diagram titled 'Effects of stroke on the brain' showing a cross-section of the brain with labels for 'Hemorrhagic Stroke', 'Weakened/weakened blood vessels rupture', and 'Blood leaks into brain tissue'. On the far right, there is a vertical navigation menu with categories: 'Guidance', 'Commissioning', 'Pathways', 'Patient Information', 'Research', and 'Medicines Information'.

Image for illustration purposes only

It will also be possible for users to browse new clinical topic areas – developed by clinicians - which will bring together the latest guidelines, high quality patient information, ongoing trials and other selected information. Users will be able to register and get regular updates on changes to guidance.

NHS staff who have an Athens account will continue to get free access to paid-for databases of evidence (e.g. MEDLINE, CINAHL), e-books and key journals (e.g. BMJ, JAMA).

Driving up the quality of information available



A key vision for the NHS is to achieve quality and outcomes that are among the best in the world; to realise this, health and social care staff need to know which sources of guidance will help them deliver the highest standard of care to patients. The NHS Evidence Accreditation Scheme rigorously assesses the processes used by organisations to produce guidance. Organisations that meet the strict criteria can display the NHS Evidence accreditation mark on their guidance.

Around 30 organisations have already been, or are going through the NHS Evidence Accreditation Scheme and many guidance producers are reviewing their processes in line with the accreditation criteria. Plans are currently underway to expand the scope of the scheme to include commissioning and social care information.

The new NICE quality standards are sourced from evidence accredited by NHS Evidence.

Supporting local decision-making

From May, NHS Evidence will provide access to NICE pathways which allow users to easily visualise and browse associated NICE products online, guided through supporting documents.

NICE pathways will make NICE guidance easier to navigate.

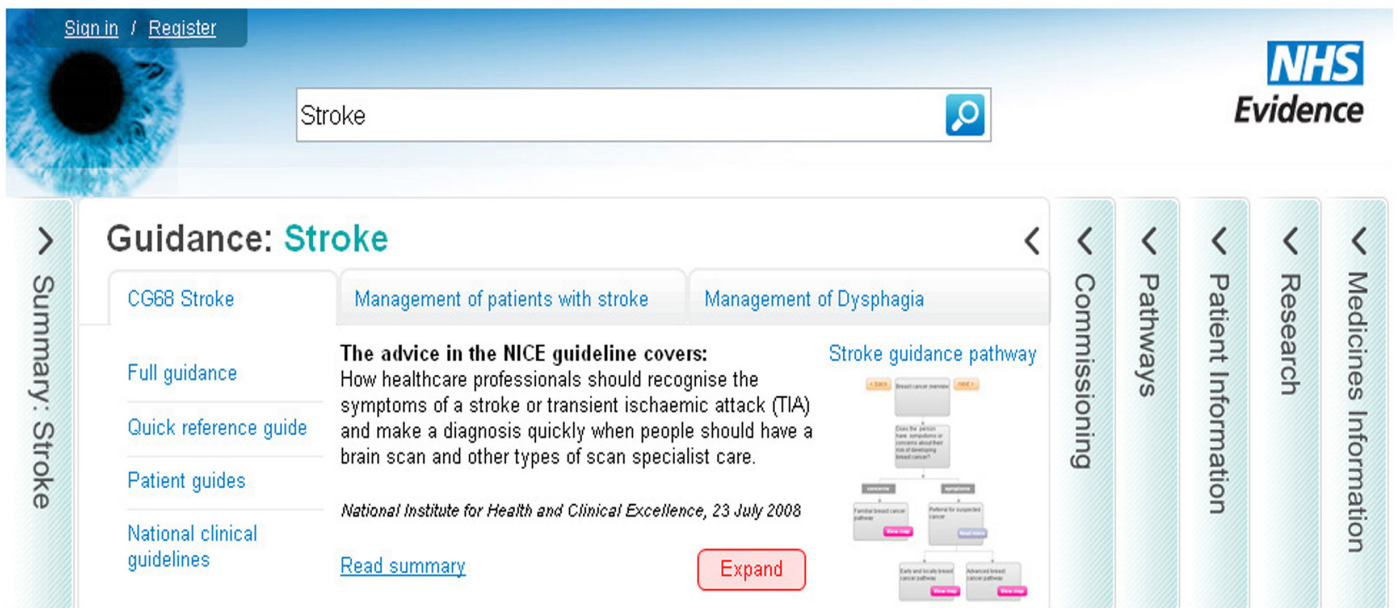


Image for illustration purposes only

Supporting the drive to improve efficiency

Now more than ever, health and social care staff need to be delivering more for less - demonstrating that NHS money is being spent wisely, to best effect, and with the best possible outcomes. The NHS Evidence QIPP collection (<http://www.library.nhs.uk/qipp>) continues to support staff by highlighting NHS improvements being driven locally and nationally. The collection provides staff with quality-assured examples of how they can do things differently, while still delivering optimal standards of care.

