Health and the Web: UK Experience

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Scope

1. Healthcare and the Web: UK Overview

2. NICE and the Web
   - Developing guidance
   - Disseminating guidance
1. Information
   - Public
   - Professional

2. Communications
   - Between professionals
   - Between professionals and patients

3. Research
   - Clinical trials
   - Patient monitoring
UK overview: the NHS

Primary care
- Health records
- Prescribing
- Hospital appointments

Secondary care
- Patchy
NICE’s Purpose

To provide professional staff with advice on:

• securing the highest attainable standards of clinical care for National Health Service patients
• promoting and sustaining the public health
NICE: setting standards

For clinicians:
- Use of individual health technologies
- Management of conditions

For public health professionals:
- Single interventions
- Programmes

Effectiveness in practice

Cost effectiveness
The “virtual” Institute

NICE

- Appraisal Committees
- Interventional Procedures
- Specialist advisors
- Collaborating Centres (clinical guidelines)
- Collaborating Centres (public health)
- Public health interventions
- Public health interventions
- GDGs

NHS
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Technology Assessment Groups

Clinical guidelines

Public health

PDGs (Public health)
Developing NICE guidance

Critical features:

- Clinically/scientifically robust
- Inclusive
- Transparent
- Independent
Disseminating NICE guidance

Predominantly web-based:

- Full guidance
- Short forms of guidance
- Supporting evidence base
Monthly page requests

The bar chart shows the number of page requests per month from 2000-6 to 2006-3. The x-axis represents the months, and the y-axis represents the hits per month. The chart indicates a significant increase in page requests over the years, particularly from 2003 onwards.
Monthly unique visitors
Monthly visitor sessions
Current in May 2006

Page requests: 6.2 million
200 Gigabytes

E-mail newsletter: >35,000 registered

E-mail updates: up to 6,000 per day
Visitors

43.4%  56.3%
Disseminating NICE guidance

Limitations:

1. Short formats
   • How short?
   • For what purpose?

2. Patient formats
   • Access?
The future?

1. Developing the evidence?

2. Disseminating the guidance?

3. Discovering societal preferences?
Evidence development

1. Web-based approaches to clinical trial registries
2. Web-based approaches to conducting clinical trials
3. Web-based approaches to developing and maintaining registries
4. Web-based access to results of clinical trials
Disseminating guidance

Professionals:
- PCs, hand-holds
- E-mail alerts
- Format(s)
- Revisions/updates
- Self-learning modules (CPD)

Patients, families, carers
- ??????
Societal preferences (1)

NICE’s Citizens Council

- Stratified random sample
  - age and gender
  - socio-economic status
  - ethnicity and disability
  - geography
- 30 members
- Cross-section – not representative

Deliberative democracy
Citizens council (2005)
Societal preferences:

What is needed:

• Broader representation (n=300 or 3000)
• Retaining the deliberative element

Could the web help?
For more about NICE....

www.nice.org.uk