

## **Irish Sepsis Management Clinical Effectiveness Guideline internationally accredited by UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)**

A new Irish guideline on the management of sepsis has been given an international seal of approval by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

Minister for Health Leo Varadkar today congratulated the Department of Health's National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) after NICE gave accreditation to its sepsis guideline, which was recommended by HIQA following the tragic death of Ms Savita Halappanavar.

“Sepsis is the tenth leading cause of death worldwide and needs to be recognised and treated at the earliest possible stage. This guideline is an important tool for clinicians which helps them to recognise sepsis early and provide appropriate treatment. In many cases a timely intervention can mean the difference between life and death. This recognition by NICE is an important benchmark for Ireland's National Clinical Effectiveness Committee and I congratulate everyone involved,” Minister Varadkar said.

Sir Andrew Dillon, chief executive of NICE said: “The NICE accreditation mark requires a high standard in interpreting evidence and making recommendations and I offer my congratulations to the NCEC on achieving the standard for this important clinical guideline. Patients and health professionals can have confidence in the quality of the advice it contains, which I hope will lead to improved care for people with sepsis in Ireland.”



Leo Varadkar, T.D, Minister for Health with Sir Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive of NICE.

The National Clinical Effectiveness Guideline No 6 – Sepsis Management guideline promotes safety and higher standards in emergency departments and hospital wards. It was commissioned by the NCEC in partnership with the HSE Clinical Programmes, expert clinicians, regulatory bodies, postgraduate training bodies, private hospitals and patients.

Following the launch of the guideline by Minister Varadkar last November 2014, the NCEC was approached by NICE with a view to seeking accreditation for the guideline.

With NICE's accreditation, the NCEC National Clinical Guideline No 6 - Sepsis Management will now be presented on the NICE Evidence Services Portal. This means it will be regarded in the UK and worldwide as guidance of high quality. It places the NCEC's work in the international field of guideline development.

The sepsis guideline is the first Irish guideline to be accredited by NICE. This international recognition confirms that significant trust can be placed in the development of NCEC guidelines and the guidance they provide to the public, clinicians, HSE and Department of Health.

Minister Varadkar acknowledged the work of NCEC in advancing patient safety and quality, and the Irish clinical effectiveness agenda, under the chairmanship of Professor Hilary Humphreys. He also recognised the significant work of Dr Fidelma Fitzpatrick for Chairing the Sepsis Steering Committee and Dr Vida Hamilton in leading the guideline development group and now supporting its implementation in the HSE.