

**Pregabalin for fibromyalgia** has been suggested for possible inclusion in NICE's work programme. Independent panels, which include patients and lay people, will consider these topics and score them against formal criteria to decide how important it is that NICE develops guidance on them in the future.

To inform the work of the panels, we welcome your views on the importance of any of this topic.

## **Pregabalin for fibromyalgia**

### **A. About you:**

1. Your name

Dr Joan Hester

2. Name of organisation

British Pain Society

3. Job title or position

President, Consultant in Pain Medicine

4. Are you (please tick all that apply)

- an employee of a topic relevant patient or voluntary organisation
- a patient with a condition relevant to the topic
- a carer of a patient with a condition relevant to the topic
- a health professional with expertise in this area (please specify which patient or carer organisation you are linked to):  
British Pain Society, Action-on-Pain
- other (please specify)

### **B. Importance of the proposed topic**

1. How **important** do you think it is for patients/the public that NICE develops guidance on the proposed topic? Tick one:

HIGH PRIORITY       MEDIUM PRIORITY       LOW PRIORITY

2. If high priority, please explain why

3. If low priority, are there other more important topics in this area that patient or the public would consider NICE should develop guidance on

Yes       No

(If yes: please state alternative topic suggestion)

Pregabalin has only recently been licensed for fibromyalgia and there are not sufficient data at the present time to make a rational decision about its effectiveness

in fibromyalgia. It would be more reasonable to explore all known treatments for fibromyalgia, not one in isolation.

### **C. Population affected**

Does the proposed guidance address a condition or public health action which patients or the public associate with any of the following, either in the population as a whole or in particular sub-groups?

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| significant morbidity (ill health)                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>            |
| significant mortality (death)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |
| significant numbers of people affected by any of the following: |  |   |
| avoidable disease   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |
| disability  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>            |
| injury  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |
| early death   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> |

If you have answered yes to any of the above, please explain why

**Fibromyalgia is a disabling condition that affects the 40-60 age group predominantly and is a cause of persistent pain, lethargy and inability to work.**

If you think that particular subgroups are affected please state the subgroup(s) (see section D below for some of the subgroups in the population who may be affected by health inequalities)

**Females**

### **D. Equalities issue**

Do any of the following subgroups require special consideration compared to the general patient population affected by the guidance (eg because they have higher levels of ill health, poorer outcomes, problems accessing or using treatments or procedures etc)?

Please tick all that apply. If there is a specific group within a ticked category, please specify.

Gender groups, for example: sex, sexual orientation, gender identity. (specify female)

Specific age groups (specify 40-60)

People with physical disabilities (specify )

People with communication difficulties (specify )

People with learning disabilities (specify )

People with mental health problems (specify )

People from black and minority ethnic groups (specify )

People of particular religions or beliefs (specify )

Other groups (specify )

If you have ticked any of the above, please explain why the specified groups need special consideration.

Loss of function has a major impact on families and lost working hours. Secondary depression and other mental health issues may also be a problem.

#### **E. Likely resource impact**

Does the proposed guidance relate to one or more interventions which:

1. the NHS could disinvest from (stop spending on) to free up resources for use elsewhere in the NHS?

Yes

No

2. might have a large impact on NHS or other societal resources (financial and other, e.g. social costs)?

Yes

No

3. address an area where better evidence of cost-effectiveness could lead to savings e.g. in delivery of quality services or interventions

Yes

No

If you have ticked any of the above, please explain

## F. Variation in practice

Is there any evidence and/or reason to believe that, in the absence of guidance on this topic, there is or will be

inappropriate clinical practice (e.g. inappropriate treatments being provided)

Yes                       No

inappropriate variation in clinical practice (e.g. inappropriate treatments being provided **by some individuals**)

Yes                       No

inappropriate variation in access to **clinical interventions** (e.g. between geographical areas or social groups, or other subgroups in the population)

Yes                       No

inappropriate variation in access to **public health actions** (e.g. between geographical areas or social groups)

Yes                       No

A limited or lack of improvement in the effectiveness of public health actions

Yes                       No

If you have ticked any of the above, please explain

**Patients with fibromyalgia may be subjected to repeated investigation and injection or other therapies when cognitive behavioural therapy or a pain management programme may be the most effective, drugs have a small role in my opinion.**

## G. Timeliness and urgency

1. Are there any factors not covered in earlier sections that suggest that guidance on this topic **should** be produced as a matter of urgency (e.g. significant public concern, a new disease, an important new area for public health action?)

Yes                       No

If YES, please list the factors(s) that suggest an urgent need for this guidance

H. Are there any factors not covered above that suggest guidance on this topic **should not** be produced a matter of urgency (eg up-to-date guidance already available; more appropriate that this topic be investigated by another organisation etc)

Yes

No

If YES, please list the factors(s) that suggest this guidance is not urgent

#### H. Other comments

Please use the space below for any other comments relating to the selection or non selection of this topic for future NICE guidance

The topic is too specific. Comparison of all known treatments for fibromyalgia would be more useful. Regular exercise in a swimming pool is the only treatment modality so far shown to have a significant effect on improving function. Combination therapy and ongoing support are often needed. Comment on the most effective forms of cognitive behavioral therapy would be of interest.

Thank you for your time.

For more information about the NICE topic selection process, please visit the NICE website <http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=295373> or contact:

Lindsey Wilby in the Topic Selection Team on 0161 209 3454.

Please return questionnaires to:

[lindsey.wilby@nice.org.uk](mailto:lindsey.wilby@nice.org.uk) copied to [emma.gibbs@nice.org.uk](mailto:emma.gibbs@nice.org.uk)