

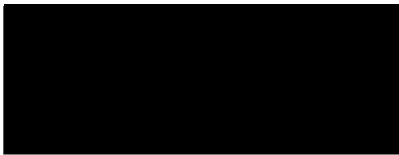


However it must be emphasised that they are guidelines, not tramlines that the treating clinician must rigidly follow. NICE state "...health and social care professionals are actively encouraged to follow our recommendations to help them deliver the highest quality care. Of course, our recommendations are not intended to replace the professional expertise and clinical judgement of health professionals, as they discuss treatment options with their patients." There will be individual patients where the treating clinician uses their own judgement and does not follow the absolute guidance.

In this particular case the expert report was prepared by a clinician with a special interest in epilepsy, from a specialist tertiary centre. Their report may not reflect what is considered acceptable practice by a general neurologist, with a general neurology practice, that is managing a patient with epilepsy. For this reason we are commissioning a further report, from an independent general neurologist, to get assurance that the individual clinician's practice did not fall outside the threshold of reasonable practice.

I hope you are reassured that the Trust has appropriate systems for the logging and disseminating of NICE Guidelines.

Yours sincerely



**Pauline Philip**  
**Chief Executive Officer**