**Judith Thornton**

**Can you briefly introduce yourself, and give some background on which part of DECIDE your work contributed to?**

I’m Judith Thornton, I work for the clinical practice programme within NICE which develops clinical guidelines for the NHS. I have been a member of the GRADE working group for many years, and we now apply GRADE across all NICE clinical guidelines. It was through this link that I got involved with DECIDE to look at at how GRADE principles can be used in the improvement of dissemination of guidelines to different audiences.

**How will NICE use DECIDE materials?**

By coincidence, NICE is reviewing our overall content strategy at the moment; this encompasses all of NICE’s work not only the clinical guideline programme that I am involved with, and is looking at how we format and present guidelines to audiences. I think a lot of the DECIDE work will feed in to that. But we are unlikely to implement a complete DECIDE product and use it unchanged. A lot of the background information and the research will be used to help inform our future presentation of guidelines, particularly around patient information. We’ve been most involved with work package 3 (WP3) in DECIDE and I think that the information that has come out of that work will be the most relevant for what we do in the future. Our editors who prepare the patient information have been looking closely at what has been coming out of DECIDE. Aside from WP3 we’ve also been involved with the WP1 group on the CLICK-IT project, which provided us with useful information that we can feed in to out guidelines for healthcare professionals.

**What are the biggest advantages of these materials for your work, or that of your colleagues?**

We tend to get a lot of anecdotal reports about what people think about NICE guidelines, but because DECIDE has had specific research projects (e.g. CLICK-IT) and user-testing, we’ve now got more quantitative information and solid data that can inform what we do going forward. In the past we’ve had to rely on hearsay that told us people can find guidelines difficult to understand, we are now able to clearly say what is difficult to understand for different audiences, allowing us to modify and adapt the way we present information to ensure we minimise misunderstanding or, in the worst case not understanding at all.

**What are the advantages of NICE being involved with the DECIDE project as a whole?**

The DECIDE project as a whole createda positive collaborative research environment. Interacting within the working groups and research teams has given us a linked network of people to go to in terms of future research collaboration or even just to answer queries going forward. We’ve been involved with other non-DECIDE related projects and staff from other agencies have joined us on work placements at NICE and all of that work has fed into the way we develop and present guidelines, giving a great working relationship to ensure that the benefits of DECIDE are ongoing even after the project is formally concluded.