

DECIDE: survey on awareness of NICE guidelines and their implementation

Methods

Survey questions were developed by Voluntary Health Scotland for a research study in Scotland and then adapted by NICE for England and Wales. The survey was available through an online tool on the NICE website and open to responses from 6 July 2011 to 28 October 2011. NICE advertised it to potential responders by emailing third sector groups and previous Guideline Development Group members; including a news item on the home page of the NICE website; sharing the survey link through social networking sites; and encouraging organisations to post a link to a blog or news feed on their own website.

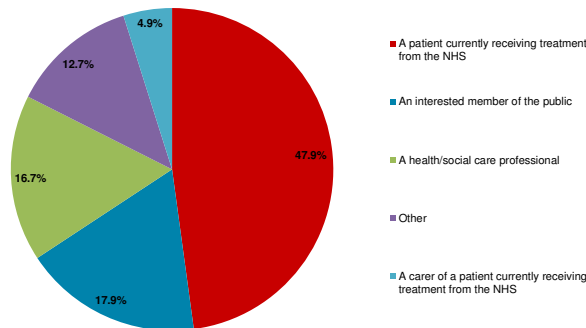


Figure 1: Characteristics of respondents

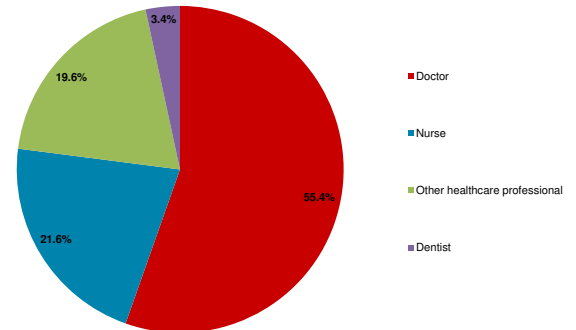


Figure 2: Use of guidelines by healthcare workers

Results

A total of 1675 responses were received (see **Figure 1** for characteristics of respondents):

- 82.5% of survey participants were aware of NICE clinical guidelines. Respondents stated they had mainly heard about them through the Internet and usually viewed them in an electronic format (73.5%) or as printed leaflets (24.5%).
- A total of 36.8% of respondents were aware that a NICE guideline was being followed in their care and treatment.
- Most respondents highlighted that their doctor (55.4%) or nurse (21.6%) had applied the specific guideline recommendations during their care and treatment although allied health professionals were also mentioned (see **Figure 2**).

'Guidelines definitely result in healthcare of higher quality.'

'I, and a number of people I have spoken to, have not been treated in accordance with NICE guideline on rheumatoid arthritis, particularly with regard to speed of referral to specialists and commencement of treatment'

'The psychiatrist was very reluctant to refer my husband for psychological therapies as he felt he was "pharmaceutically well controlled". We were able to use NICE guidelines to argue his case for talking therapies which have really helped him.'



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