

Needle & Syringe Programme NICE Guidance PH52 (Apr 2014) – at a glance

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH52/Guidance/pdf/English>

Key messages:

1. Increase in the number of people using IPEDs with the increased risk of blood borne viruses - HIV being seen for the first time in 1.5% of injecting IPED users (PHE).
2. Services for non-opiate/crack users are patchy with inconsistent knowledge and expertise. The guidelines highlight the need for commissioners to tailor services for IPED users and other emerging injecting trends.
3. NSPs were introduced 25 years ago and successfully reduced the spread of BBVs. Now we are seeing new groups coming forward who are unaware of risks and don't see themselves as drug users.

Recommendations at a glance (For full details see pages 6-16 of the guidance):

No	Recommendation	Overview / focus of recommendation	Pg
1	Consult with and involve users, practitioners and the local community	Who should be consulted with when planning, expanding or improving NSP.	p6
2	Collate and analyse data on injecting drug users	Collate NSP activity data & info on injecting practice and identify potential BBV risk.	p7
3	Commission both generic and targeted services to meet local need	What steps to take to increase over 100% coverage and reduce BBVs in local area.	p8
4	Monitor services	Area-wide info on injecting behaviours needs to be collated and analysed at least annually.	p9
5	Develop a policy for young people who inject drugs	Local areas to address needs of U18s/U16s, balancing safeguarding & health needs.	p10
6	Provide a mix of services	Mix to include level 1, 2 & 3 services.	p12
7	Provide people with the right type of equipment and advice	Including advice re disposal, higher-risk practices, identification schemes, referrals.	p12
8	Provide community pharmacy-based needle and syringe programmes	Specifications for pharmacies, including those providing level 2 and level 3 NSPs.	p13
9	Provide specialist (level 3) needle & syringe programmes	Specifications for level 3 (specialist) NSPs.	p14
10	Provide equipment and advice to people who inject image and performance enhancing drugs	Provide NSPs appropriate for IPED injectors; includes specifications for level 2 and level 3 IPED services for areas that require them.	p16

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendations? (See pages 17-19 of the guidance):

Recommendation number	Who should take action
1, 2, 3, 6	Health and wellbeing boards
5	Children's safeguarding boards
8	Local pharmaceutical committees
1, 2, 3, 5	Directors of public health
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10	Commissioners
4, 7, 10	Providers of needle and syringe programmes
1, 2, 4, 10	Public health practitioners
8	Coordinators of community pharmacy-based NSPs
7, 8, 9 (if relevant)	Community pharmacies
9	Specialist needle and syringe programmes

Needle and syringe programmes, NICE Public Health Guidance 52 (replaces PH18)

See <http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/LimitSpreadOfBloodborneVirusesAmongSteroidUsers.jsp>

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