

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Low Back Pain (update)

Stakeholder Comments – Draft Scope

<p>NOTE: NICE is unable to accept comments from non-registered organisations or individuals. If you wish your comments to be considered but are not a registered stakeholder, please register via the NICE website or contact the registered stakeholder organisation that most closely represents your interests and pass your comments to them. Please fill in both the ‘stakeholder organisation’ and ‘name of commentator’ fields below in order for your comments to be considered.</p>		
Stakeholder organisation:		Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Name of commentator:		Helen Chang (Senior Professional Support Pharmacist, RPS Support Manager)
Comment No.	Section number	Comments
	Indicate number or ‘general’ if your comment relates to the whole document	Please insert each new comment in a new row. Please do not paste other tables into this table, as your comments could get lost – type directly into this table
1	General	<p>The Royal Pharmaceutical Society welcomes an update to the NICE clinical guidelines for low back pain.</p> <p>We would like to recommend that NICE considers how healthcare professionals might support patients with low back pain and include this within the guidance. There is a brief reference to management of low back pain in a primary care setting under section 3.2; however it would be useful to specify how each healthcare professional might be involved at each stage in the care pathway and also how they might work together to improve patient outcomes.</p> <p>As experts in medicines, pharmacists provide advice on how to take medicines, adverse effects, possible interactions and cautions, to raise patients’ awareness and increase their understanding of their condition and therapy, which will encourage medicines adherence and empower self-care.</p>

PLEASE NOTE: The Institute reserves the right to summarise and edit comments received during consultations, or not to publish them at all, where in the reasonable opinion of the Institute, the comments are voluminous, publication would be unlawful or publication would be otherwise inappropriate.

		<p>Pharmacists and pharmacy support teams are ideally placed to offer initial and ongoing advice to patients with low back pain. They are able to identify when patients should be referred to their GP e.g. when alarm symptoms are present; provide advice about over-the-counter treatments for low back pain (analgesics and anti-inflammatories); and provide appropriate lifestyle advice to help patients manage their symptoms.</p> <p>The accessible and inviting environment of community pharmacies allow patients to seek advice and have conversations about their symptoms at a time that is convenient for them without having to make an appointment.</p>
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Please email this form to: LBPupdate@nice.org.uk

Closing date: 5pm on 18th November 2013