

**National Institute for  
Health and Clinical Excellence**

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**Wednesday 15 April 2009**

Dear Ms Lane

**Updating GG56 Head Injury Guideline**

I am very sorry to hear about your son and the circumstances you feel contributed towards his death. I understand how important this situation is to you and I appreciate your concerns about the need to provide guidance that addresses this issue.

In your letter, dated 26 February 2009, you asked whether our guideline on Head Injury (CG56) could be updated to include recent research on hypopituitarism after traumatic brain injury.

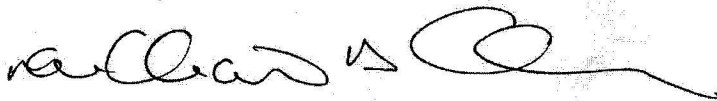
NICE issued guidance on Head Injury to the NHS in September 2007. This guideline was a partial update of the guideline published in June 2003.

A partial update is still regarded as final NICE guidance and has the same status within the NHS as the original guideline. We conducted a partial update of the guideline in 2007 as only evidence relating to specific areas was identified as being significant enough to change part of the recommendations.

I understand you have been liaising with Natalie Whelan in our Enquiry Handling team. Natalie has spoken to the National Collaborating Centre (NCC), who are aware of the study you identified in your original email to NICE and they have responded to say that this study will be considered for inclusion when the guideline is next reviewed.

Our guidelines manual explains how NICE develops clinical guidelines and provides advice on the technical aspects of guideline development. In line with our current process the NCC will advise the Centre for Clinical Practice (CCP) at NICE about the need for, and extent of, an update 3 years after publication. Therefore the next consideration of an update to the Head Injury guideline will be in September 2010.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Dillon**  
Chief Executive