

Press release

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NHS Evidence Accreditation decision on the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre guideline process

The process used by the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre to produce the Diagnosis of Brain Tumours in Children guideline has been formally approved under the NHS Evidence Accreditation Scheme.

NHS Evidence Accreditation verifies the highest quality guidance available to health and social care professionals, enabling them to drive quality outcomes that are amongst the best in the world. It uses rigorous assessment processes based on international standards for guideline development produced by the Appraisal of Guidelines Research & Evaluation collaboration (AGREE).


The independent NHS Evidence Accreditation Advisory Committee of experts in evidence synthesis, practising clinicians and lay people concluded that the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre has a robust process in place for producing the Diagnosis of Brain Tumours in Children guideline and that this process was clearly described. The methods to balance benefits and risks in formulating recommendations were found to be well described, as were the methods for evaluating the strength of evidence. In addition, the committee confirmed that the methods for peer review and keeping guidance up to date are rigorous components of the process.

All guidance available via NHS Evidence has been carefully selected for inclusion in search results from organisations which health and social care professionals can rely on for good quality information. However, only organisations whose guidance processes meet the committee's exacting standards are accredited.

The Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre will now be able to carry the NHS Evidence Accreditation Mark on its Diagnosis of Brain Tumours in Children guideline produced under the accredited process, assuring staff that they are accessing some of the best information available online to make informed decisions about patient care.

Professor David Haslam, NHS Evidence Advisory Committee Chair said: "This decision is testimony to the work that the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre has put into producing this guideline to help health care professionals deliver a high standard of care to their patients. The accreditation process offers an important learning experience for all guidance producers; as with all applicants, the advisory committee has provided valuable feedback on how the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre can further strengthen its guidance development processes going forward."

Professor David Walker, Professor of Paediatric Oncology, at the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre said: "We are all delighted that Dr Sophie Wilne's hard work within the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre, in developing new clinical guidance for selection of children with symptoms of brain



tumour, has been accredited as meeting the high standards of NHS Evidence. This further strengthens the value of the HeadSmart - Be brain tumour aware campaign, as this guidance is the evidence upon which the HeadSmart messages are based. This means that all doctors across the UK will be advised to follow this guidance creating the situation where real changes in referral practice can be expected, leading to reductions in time from symptom onset to diagnosis for children suffering from brain tumour. In turn we hope that this will reduce the levels of disability many children with brain tumours suffer due to late diagnosis as well as improving survival.”

ENDs

Editor’s notes

1. The final accreditation report is available at <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/Accreditation/Pages/AccreditationDecisions.aspx>
2. The Accreditation Mark is a registered trademark of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. It appears next to titles within search results on the NHS Evidence portal to denote those information sources that have passed the NHS Evidence criteria for producing high-quality information.
3. Provided it is relevant to a search, information from accredited sources features on NHS Evidence in the top results, with the Accreditation Mark clearly displayed.
4. An accredited organisation can display the Accreditation Mark publicity as a sign of its high standard achieved in developing information.
5. Accreditation lasts for three years.
6. The HeadSmart Campaign aims to enhance the awareness of symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people. It is run by a partnership between the Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC) at the University of Nottingham, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (SDBTT), and has been funded by The Health Foundation and SDBTT.

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