

PE1723/I

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) response of 14 October 2020

It is not for NICE to take a view on what actions the Scottish Parliament or Government should take in relation to awareness and treatment of this condition as that is a matter for them. However, we can comment on the status and content of our guidance.

Our interventional procedures guidance ([IPG617](#)) on unilateral MRI-guided focused ultrasound thalamotomy for treatment-resistant essential tremor says: *The evidence on the safety of unilateral MRI-guided focused ultrasound thalamotomy for treatment-resistant essential tremor raises no major safety concerns. However, current evidence on its efficacy is limited in quantity. Therefore, this procedure should not be used unless there are special arrangements for clinical governance, consent, and audit or research.*

The independent interventional procedures advisory committee (IPAC) identified that “further research, which could include randomised controlled trials, should address patient selection, report on functional improvement and quality of life, and provide long-term follow-up data.” IPAC advises NICE on the formulation of guidance on the safety and efficacy of interventional procedures.

Special arrangements describe a governance structure within which the procedure should be done if it is used. The definition of the term ‘special arrangements’ can be found on the [NICE website](#).

The guidance represents the views of NICE but is not mandatory.

While NICE’s interventional procedures guidance (IPG) applies in Scotland, any introduction would be a local decision and should be in line with our recommendations on special arrangements.

Decisions to fund procedures are made at a local NHS level and usually on a case-by-case basis.

How NICE monitors and updates IPGs is set out in [section 19](#) of our interventional procedures programme manual. When reviewing guidance in the interventional procedures programme, NICE considers if there is any new evidence or information to suggest that the guidance recommendations would be likely to change. If so, NICE updates the guidance. The approach to reviewing guidance depends on the category of recommendation made in the guidance.

There are 4 main categories of recommendation within interventional procedures guidance:

- standard arrangements for clinical governance, consent, and audit
- special arrangements for clinical governance, consent and audit or research
- only in research; and
- do not use