

**RELEASE DATE**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2013**

**Allergy Guidelines Development Process Receives NICE Approval**

The British Society for Allergy and Clinical immunology (BSACI) has received National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) accreditation for the development process of its allergy management guidelines. The BSACI is a specialist society comprising of over 700 members in the UK, who work across many specialties including, allergy, immunology and paediatrics, ENT, dermatology and respiratory medicine and is widely recognised by the medical profession as a trustworthy source of unbiased and expert guidance on allergic disease.

NICE undertook a rigorous review of the processes by which BSACI develops its clinical guidelines and found that BSACI guidelines are produced in accordance with a systematic process that considers the risks and benefits of all recommendations. The UK has one of the highest levels of allergy in the world with 1 in 3 individuals reporting symptoms of allergy. BSACI guidelines are used to improve care for the many individuals who live with allergic disease in the UK, and will allow commissioners to measure standards across the country. Patient information leaflets are also produced in conjunction with each BSACI guideline and a brief e-summary developed allowing GPs easy access to the guidelines when seeing patients.

Dr Shuaib Nasser (previous Chair of BSACI Standards of Care Committee) who developed the processes in accordance with NICE standards said 'The BSACI are one of the very few professional organisations to have achieved this standard; it has taken the Society many years, however all the hard work has paid off and I hope this will now translate to improved patient care.'

The accreditation is valid for 5 years from January 2013 and also applies to three previously published BSACI guidelines produced in accordance with the accredited process. More information on accreditation can be viewed at <http://www.nice.org.uk/accreditation>.

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### **About The British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology**

The British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI) is the national, professional and academic society which represents the specialty of allergy at all levels. Its aim is to improve the management of allergies and related diseases of the immune system in the United Kingdom, through education, training and research.

A full list of open access published guidelines can be viewed on the BSACI website on [www.bsaci.org](http://www.bsaci.org). The last three guidelines have been produced in full accordance with the NICE accredited guidelines development manual. They included guidelines on egg allergy, immunotherapy for rhinitis and immunotherapy for venom allergy.

The BSACI website hosts the only comprehensive list of the NHS allergy clinics in the UK which BSACI actively encourages GP's to use when referring patients to an allergy specialist for treatment. [\*\*www.bsaci.org\*\*](http://www.bsaci.org)

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