

PE1662/J

Scottish Government submission of 24 May 2018

The Scottish Government recognises the value to clinicians of high quality clinical guidance for the treatment and management of Lyme disease in Scotland.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guideline on Lyme disease was published in April 2018. An expert committee looked at the available evidence on Lyme disease and made a series of recommendations for the diagnosis and management of the disease. While NICE guidelines have no formal status in Scotland, they are widely recognised as high quality, evidence based publications.

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) collaborate with networks of clinicians, health and social care professionals, patient organisations and individuals to develop evidence based clinical guidelines for Scotland. SIGN has no process, either routine or on request, to assess NICE guidelines for applicability or adoption.

Where there is no SIGN guideline on a particular subject, clinicians would be expected to source another evidence based, high quality publication on which to base their practice. SIGN have indicated that the guideline produced by NICE on Lyme disease would fit this criteria.

The Scottish Government is in the process of seeking the views of experts on the applicability of the NICE guidelines on Lyme disease for use in Scotland.