



STATEMENT REGARDING CCSVI

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the United Kingdom has recently announced it is encouraging further research into the procedure known as percutaneous venoplasty, to determine if it is effective and safe for use. The procedure is used to open up narrowed veins in the neck that carry oxygen depleted blood, in a condition known as chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI), and is of great interest to many people with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Before the final guidance is published in December 2011, NICE will seek to encourage anyone with a special interest or experience of the procedure to comment on the draft recommendation and when published, will help inform MS Australia on the latest evidence and specialist opinion about the safety and efficacy of percutaneous venoplasty.

We have actively encouraged Australian researchers who wished to pursue research into this condition; this has resulted in only two small scale projects. We eagerly await results from the larger research effort in North America, Europe and Canada and the final guidance from NICE into this procedure to help shape our policies and in particular, our advocacy, on this important issue for people living with MS.

MS Australia is committed to minimising the impact of multiple sclerosis on the lives of Australians and we keep an open mind to possible new treatments. MS Australia and MS Research Australia will continue to update people with MS on the latest research and developments in CCSVI.

Ends

People with MS seeking any form of treatment should do so by consulting their Doctor. For all other enquiries, call MS Connect on 1800 042 138.

Media enquiries should be directed to Prue Guillaume on 0450 659 811.