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The Launch of NHS Evidence

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Background: The proposal to create NHS Evidence for the UK was first announced on 30 June 2008 as part of the **High Quality Care for All** report which stated that: “All NHS Staff will have access to a new NHS Evidence service where they will be able to get, through a single web-based portal, authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practices.”

Purpose: The principle aim of NHS Evidence is to provide easy access to a comprehensive evidence base for everyone in health and social care that make decisions about treatments or the use of resources – including clinicians, public health professionals, commissioners and service managers – thus improving health and patient care.

Methods: NHS Evidence will build on NICE’s international reputation for developing high quality evidence-based guidance to meet the stated aims.

Results:

- NHS Evidence (www.evidence.nhs.uk) was launched on 30 April 2009, with subsequent releases 16 June and 19 October
- It provides access to a range of information types, including primary research literature, practical implementation tools, guidelines and policy documents via a web-based portal
- Includes a fast comprehensive search function and an opportunity to rate search results
- Provides a formal accreditation scheme for guidance using criteria based on the AGREE instrument
- Commissions evidence-based information from external sources, in line with user needs and priorities
- Identifies evidence reflecting best practice in particular topic areas to inform a range of user groups
- Engages with users and stakeholders to provide feedback to develop the service.

Discussion: New features will continue to be added including personalisation to help you get to the most relevant information for you, accreditation of reliable sources of information, and access to local examples of best practice and commissioning guides.