National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

PH PROGRAMME – MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION
Consultation 15 September – 14 October 2005
Comments on the Scope by 14 October 2005

Stakeholder Comments

Please use this form for submitting your comments to the Institute.

- Please put each new comment in a new row.
- Please insert the **section number** in the 1st column. If your comment relates to the document as a whole, please put **'general'** in this column

Name:	**Janis Baird on behalf of the Child Public Health Interest Group and Lynne Kennedy**
Organisation:	**Faculty of Public Health**
Section number Indicate **section number** or **'general'** if your comment relates to the whole document	**Comments** Please insert each new comment in a new row.
1.	The guidance title suggests that the review will focus on 'low income households'. However this omits other important inequalities which are covered in detail in the background to the scope. We agree with comments made at the stakeholder meeting that the use of the term 'inequalities' in the guidance title would be more appropriate.
4.2 and 4.4	Both sections suggest that the review will focus only on 'nutritional interventions'. However it was clear from the presentation of the scope that the interventions considered would be much broader than this, including for example educational and other 'upstream' interventions. The Faculty of Public Health supports a broad approach that considers any intervention that improves the nutrition of mothers and children. A broader approach is necessary to secure the wider societal changes and the social and cultural attitude necessary to support e.g. increased levels of breastfeeding
4.2 and 4.3	We would welcome a review of the evidence on the effectiveness of nutritional education as part of this guidance. In particular we would like to see an examination of the guidelines for nutritional education of mothers and children that are currently in use by health visitors.
4.2	Vitamin D deficiency in Asian and Afro-Caribbean mothers and children is a major problem and we believe that the guidance should consider the need for Vitamin D supplementation in pregnancy and childhood.
4.2	Inadequate calcium levels in pregnancy are another problem in Asian women. We would like to see this considered within the scope.

4.2	Food fortification is an important public health strategy for improving nutrition and we would welcome its consideration within the scope.
4.7 4.4	It would be helpful to have details of the proposed inclusion criteria for ‘selecting studies’; will the review be restricted to RCTs? or will the review be more inclusive and include a variety of studies originating from different epistemological and methodological paradigms? This will be particularly appropriate for exploring ‘key question (6) in section 4.4. For additional consideration under the 10 areas in section 4.4: What are the iatrogenic or unanticipated effects of interventions? Are there any ethical concerns? Is the intervention based upon a theoretical model or framework?

Please add extra rows as needed