Written Answers

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will adopt the latest Inflammatory Bowel Disease Standards Group standards for the care of patients with the condition.

Norman Lamb (The Minister of State, Department of Health; North Norfolk, Liberal Democrat)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides the National Health Service and social care providers with advice on delivering effective healthcare. NICE has published guidelines on inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), set out in, Crohn's disease: Management in adults, children and young people, published in October 2012 and, Ulcerative colitis: Management in adults, children and young people, published in June 2013. NHS England expects local commissioners and providers to consider the latest evidence and guidance when planning services for patients with all conditions, including IBD.

NICE is currently developing a Quality Standard for IBD, covering both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, and invited submissions to its development group from key stakeholders as part of this process. Quality Standards are important in setting out to patients, the public, commissioners and providers the key elements of a high quality service in a particular area of care. The IBD Standards Group made a submission to the development group which drew on its new standards of care, published in October 2013. The Quality Standard is due to be published later this month.

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will fund the provision of a minimum of 1.5 specialist irritable bowel syndrome nurses per 250,000 people.

Norman Lamb (The Minister of State, Department of Health; North Norfolk, Liberal Democrat)

The Government has no plans to fund the provision of specialist nurses for irritable bowel syndrome. Through the Mandate, we have asked NHS England to deliver continued improvements in relation to the experience of care, including long term conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome. Local healthcare organisations, with their knowledge of the people they serve, are best placed to plan and employ a workforce based on clinical need and sound evidence.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence is currently developing a quality standard for irritable bowel syndrome. This is due to be published in September 2014. NHS England expects clinical commissioning groups to take into account the needs of their population and for service providers to be fully aware of the new guidance and to examine the performance of their organisation and assess improvement in standards of care they provide for people with irritable bowel syndrome.