

**British Association of Dermatologists  
Therapy & Guidelines sub-committee**

Comments on the public consultation “A vision for an enhanced BNF from NICE”

The British Association of Dermatologists would like to thank NICE for the opportunity to comment on this consultation. We contribute, via our Therapy & Guidelines sub-committee, to the updating of the skin chapter and principally agree with NICE’s vision for an enhanced BNF in terms of quick and convenient online access by a range of healthcare professionals.

However, we feel that the print version should not be discontinued anytime soon due to *potential* issues with online access, e.g. slow internet connections in hospitals and limited access by some NHS healthcare professionals to OpenAthens, where the app for the BNF is available. The hard copy would still be very useful in outpatient settings and in wards, so accessibility in a range of formats is key.

We are also aware of the BNF’s unsuccessful application for NICE Accreditation due particularly to ‘non-compliance’ for one criterion (criterion 3.3). The recommendation by NICE for the BNF to “*demonstrate a robust process to systematically and transparently assess the strengths, weaknesses and areas of uncertainty in the evidence base*” may significantly slow down future updates especially that, in our experience, the BNF mainly reviews NICE guidelines or NICE-accredited guidelines by other organisations which has already gone through a robust process.