

6.2 Description of the Guideline process

All members of the Guideline Development Working Party agreed to declare any interests or connections with relevant pharmaceutical companies or other organisations, at the first meeting. No member had any paid consultancy or any other conflict of interest with any pharmaceutical company currently involved with therapeutic products for heavy menstrual bleeding. Not all members were able to attend all meetings but were circulated with drafts and minutes of the meetings.

Four meetings were held, all in Auckland. The first meeting was in February 1997 and the Group met with Dr Diana North who was one of the Guidelines Fellows from the first training workshop in 1996. The concept of guideline development was presented to the group. The next meeting was held in May 1997 and this was very much a working meeting discussing some of the more difficult issues. The next meeting was September 1997 where a preliminary draft Guideline was presented. The last meeting was held in February 1998 and a critical appraisal of the penultimate draft was undertaken.

Various members undertook to write sections of the Guideline and Dr C Farquhar collated and produced a draft in October 1997. Interested groups and individuals were circulated with the draft Guideline, in November 1997. Comments were invited and four weeks were given for the response. A final draft was circulated to the working party members in March 1998.

The development of this Guideline was funded in part by a grant from the Ministry of Health. This covered the cost of the meetings, the identification of the evidence and the costs of preparing the manuscript.