What is a Nursing Care Guideline:
- An evidence-based nursing care guideline, covers an episode of care or event that supports the pathway of care for that particular patient, providing detailed information and guidance for that care.

How do the NCG’s work?
- Defines the issue
- Lists potential adverse effects
- States the goal
- Highlights the guideline to nursing action
- Shows the preferred outcome
- Demonstrates the evidence links

Nursing Care Guidelines

Getting the Evidence into Practice
- Members of the group reviewed the citations and decided on their relevance based on specified inclusion criteria.
- The citations found three key areas of interest including the pharmacological / medical interventions, practical solutions to the problems and reassurance and assessment theories.
- Data from the studies were extracted and the evidence systematically appraised.
- Nursing care guidelines were developed based on this evidence which outlined a step by step approach to care.
- Myths and healthcare rituals were discovered as part of this process but the guidance that was developed relied on up to date available evidence to provide active support for clinical staff and improve direct patient care.
- The dissemination of these guidelines has helped provide consistency in care throughout the organisation.

What the Literature Said
- Discussions at the Evidence Based Council meetings led to a group being formed to examine the evidence related to the treatment of pyrexia and provide consistent evidence based guidance for practice.
- A literature search of the major electronic databases, including Medline, CINAHL etc, was conducted as well as internet resources such as SIGN, NICE and the Cochrane database.
- A wide variation in the use of anti-pyrexial medication and techniques in practice were identified.
- There was concern identified with inappropriate use medications and practices leading to the masking of clinical infections.
- It was felt that the evidence available would support the development of a care guideline for patient with pyrexia

STHFT Evidence Based Council
- Started in 1998
- Developed to be a networking opportunity for staff to share and disseminate good practice
- Multidisciplinary, bottom up approach
- Meet regularly – with email & website communication methods to support
- Everyone has a voice – equal partnerships
- Examine clinically relevant topics
- Members and non members invited to be part of the activities
- Supports research, audit and service review activities