

What we produce

NHS QIS produces a number of publications designed to respond to the needs of NHSScotland, with the aim of improving the quality and safety of healthcare and treatment. Below you will find a list of the key types of publications that we produce with information about each.

Best practice statements

Best practice statements provide advice and guidance to nurses, midwives and AHPs in relation to specific areas of healthcare. The statements promote the delivery of consistent levels of healthcare for patients wherever they access NHSScotland's services.

Clinical indicators

Clinical indicators focus on a range of health and healthcare-related topics. An indicator is a measure that provides a picture about a specific aspect of health and healthcare (including patient outcomes) at a particular time. Used carefully, and in an appropriate context, the indicators can highlight variations which can then be investigated and, where necessary, appropriate action taken. Our reports include indicators at local and national level.

Evidence notes

An evidence note is a short summary of the published clinical and/or cost-effectiveness evidence for a particular technology, device or service organisation. Usually they are produced in response to a direct query from a service planner within Scotland. Evidence notes do not make any recommendations for NHSScotland but compile and present the available evidence.

Health technology assessments

Health technology assessments (HTAs) consider the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of the development, diffusion and use of health technology. They aim to provide rigorous and timely advice that is of practical use to decision makers at all levels about value for money and the resources required for implementing HTA recommendations.

National overviews and local reports

Following our development and setting of standards (see next page), we assess the performance of NHSScotland against those standards, and publish our findings.

These findings are summarised in a national overview. A local report is also produced for each organisation.

NICE technology appraisal guidance in Scotland

We work in partnership with NICE to issue its technology appraisal guidance to NHSScotland, at the same time as it is issued to the health service in England and Wales. We do not re-assess the evidence used by NICE in forming its advice, nor 'approve' the NICE guidance. Instead our comments focus on any implications for NHSScotland arising from the NICE guidance.

Reports of national audit activity

The clinical audit process assesses care against clear criteria, such as standards and guidelines, in order to identify suitable areas for improvement. Making changes to services and procedures to bring about the identified improvements and then reviewing care to ensure improvements are maintained, is part of the clinical audit cycle.

SIGN guidelines

SIGN clinical guidelines are statements designed to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate healthcare in specific clinical circumstances. The guidelines provide recommendations for effective practice in the management of clinical conditions where variations in practice are known to occur and where effective care may not be delivered uniformly throughout Scotland.

Standards

Working in partnership with healthcare professionals and members of the public, we develop and set standards. The standards are often based on the patient's journey as he or she moves through different parts of the health service. The standards are clear and measurable, based on appropriate evidence, and written to take into account other recognised standards and clinical guidelines. They are supplemented by a self-assessment tool which allows NHS boards to measure their own compliance with the standards.

Publications and projects completed in 2006–2007

Cancer

We published:

- a national overview and local reports on the Scottish Breast Screening Programme
- a national overview and local reports on the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme
- a SIGN guideline on the management of oesophageal and gastric cancer
- a SIGN guideline on the diagnosis and management of head and neck cancer
- draft core standards for cancer services
- standards for the national bowel screening programme.

Heart disease and stroke

We published a set of SIGN guidelines on:

- the diagnosis and management of peripheral arterial disease
 - acute coronary syndromes
 - cardiac arrhythmias in coronary heart disease
 - the management of chronic heart failure
 - the management of stable angina,
- and
- a report assessing the economic impact of the coronary heart disease guidelines
 - risk estimation and the prevention of cardiovascular disease
 - a review of issues relevant to AHPs and nurses treating ankle-foot orthoses following a stroke.

We carried out a scoping exercise for a report on the management of dysphagia following acute stroke.

We commissioned a research project to identify incidence of aphasia and the management of aphasia across Scotland.

We produced a poster, electronic presentation and flyer to highlight the importance of early referral to an orthoptist to identify visual defects following a stroke.

Clinical governance and patient safety

We published:

- blood transfusion standards
- a consultation report leading to work on a health technology assessment of the clinical and cost effectiveness of screening for MRSA
- local reports on the performance of NHS boards against our clinical governance and risk management standards.

We began a review of our national standards for dealing with healthcare associated infection.

Long-term conditions

We published:

- standards on improving asthma care for children and young people
- an audit report identifying children with asthma who could benefit from asthma management education
- a report on the thoughts and opinions expressed by children and young people with asthma on their condition and how it should be managed
- an audit report on glycaemic control in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes in Scotland
- a SIGN guideline on the management of hepatitis C.

Mental health

We published:

- a report and patient guide that made recommendations for the management and treatment of eating disorders in Scotland
- two reports on understanding alcohol misuse in Scotland.

We hosted a national conference promoting the benefits of ICPs for mental health services and started developing standards for ICPs on bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, dementia, depression, and schizophrenia.

Primary care

We published:

- a strategic framework outlining how our work will help NHSScotland develop a range of innovative and flexible local solutions with a focus on prevention, anticipatory care and integration between primary care and specialist community and hospital-based services
- local reports on NHS boards' primary medical services: quality and outcomes framework
- a national overview and local reports on the provision of safe and effective primary medical services out-of-hours
- a report entitled 'Together we can' on the development and activities of AHP networks.

Maternal and child health

We published:

- a national overview and local reports on the quality of maternity services
- an audit report on the detection and management of postnatal depression
- a scoping report for a possible health technology assessment of screening hips of newborns in Scotland
- an audit report on case reviews of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy
- an audit report of new cases of genital anomalies
- a SIGN guideline on bronchiolitis in children
- an evidence note on melatonin to assist in the management of sleep disorders in children with neuro-developmental disorders.

We commissioned a research project into developmental co-ordination disorder in children.

We created a database of good practice for maternity services.

Other projects

We published:

- a national overview and local reports assessing food, fluid and nutritional care in hospitals
- an audit report on developing a national system to monitor the quality of hospital-based stroke services
- a profile of surgical care in each NHS board
- a strategy for clinical indicators in Scotland

- a preliminary report on improving the quality of sexual health services
- a report to scope the current provision of services available to those affected by neurological conditions
- a best practice statement on ear care
- a literature review and report on bereavement care
- a SIGN guideline on the management of suspected bacterial urinary tract infection in adults
- an independent evaluation of our reviews of food, fluid and nutritional care in hospitals
- a summary booklet for our health technology assessment on the use of epoetin alfa before orthopaedic surgery in patients with mild anaemia
- an evidence note looking at High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) cabinets to dry and store flexible endoscopes
- a scoping report for a possible health technology assessment in homeopathy
- a report looking at the available evidence relating to practice development
- an impact assessment of our health technology assessments.

We continue to support the development of managed clinical networks (MCNs).

We began work on creating a network to co-ordinate the work of gerontology practitioners.

We continue to develop and support AHPs and their various networks.

We co-hosted a one-day conference with the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) of the University of Aberdeen exploring the role of evidence in NHSScotland.

Developing NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

We published an independent report evaluating the impact of our organisation on NHSScotland.

We published a delivery plan outlining the work we would undertake for the following year.

We published a corporate plan setting out our objectives between 2006 and 2009.

We continued the work started the previous year to raise awareness of equality and diversity issues, and how these issues can benefit the work that we do.

We published a disability equality scheme.

We assessed our policies and began work assessing our publications to ensure that they do not discriminate unfairly.

We reviewed our staff governance action plan and updated the plan for the year ahead.

You can read and download this document from our website. We can also provide this information:

- by email
- in large print
- on audio tape or CD
- in Braille, and
- in community languages.

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Edinburgh Office
Elliott House
8-10 Hillside Crescent
Edinburgh EH7 5EA

Phone: 0131 623 4300
Textphone: 0131 623 4383

Glasgow Office
Delta House
50 West Nile Street
Glasgow G1 2NP

Phone: 0141 225 6999
Textphone: 0141 241 6316

Email: comments@nhshealthquality.org

Website: www.nhshealthquality.org