Clinical engagement

Benefits

**Benefits to your organisation**

The potential to build capacity, capability and leadership within your team to deliver lasting improvements

Enabling collaborative work locally and nationally

National recognition as a healthcare organisation committed to supporting quality improvement

Efficient and effective way of supporting, developing and retaining staff

Improvement support to enable clinicians to apply their learning in a local setting

Transferable knowledge, skills and experience that can be shared with colleagues locally

Shared focus on improving healthcare

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**Benefits to you**

Your contribution is acknowledged and will provide support for career development and appraisal

Enhanced training and skills opportunities

Opportunity to work with colleagues who have a shared focus on improving patient care

Contributes to your continued professional development and strengthens the recognition of your expertise

An opportunity to contribute and influence at a national level

Provides networking opportunities across NHSScotland and beyond

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’It was an honour to be asked to contribute to writing the SIGN guideline on stable angina and has given me a great insight into the process of writing national guidelines. Being able to work with colleagues from a variety of professional backgrounds from across the country has altered my perspective and ultimately increased my own knowledge too’

– Gordon Rushworth
Lead Pharmacist Diabetes, Highland Diabetes Centre
Advanced Pharmacist Clinical Research - Highland Clinical Research Facility

’It was a great opportunity to network with key clinicians of other disciplines specialising in chronic pain and gain a much better understanding of their roles and skills and vice versa. The review process was rigorous and gives you confidence in the outcomes from SIGN. As pharmacological management is such a key “piece of the jigsaw” in pain management it was essential there was some pharmacist input. Professionally, it helped me immensely in keeping up to date with all the latest evidence, gave an opportunity to reflect on my own practice and hopefully influenced other clinicians about the role of Pharmacy’

– Deborah Steven
Lead Pharmacist, Fife Integrated Pain Management Service
The Pharmacy and SIGN Compact is a partnership agreement between the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) in Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and pharmacists who work with us. It is designed to facilitate a clearer understanding about what we can expect from each other to ensure meaningful and sustainable relationships with clinical communities, and take forward improvements to patient care.

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Healthcare Improvement Scotland with SIGN will:**

- Ensure clear and transparent processes are in place to support you to work with us
- Share information with you about our work
- Provide support for your career development and ensure continuous professional development recognition
- Provide engagement and networking opportunities, both within our organisations and at national level
- Work with you to continually review and improve our approach to engaging with pharmacists
- Provide opportunities for peer support

**Pharmacists will:**

- Provide pharmaceutical expertise, prescribing data oversight and a detailed knowledge of medicines legislation to the SIGN guideline development process
- Ensure proposed SIGN recommendations align with Scottish Medicines Consortium advice and NHSScotland guidance around use of licensed, unlicensed and off-label use of medicines within an appropriate governance framework
- Help SIGN identify key stakeholder groups to consult with
- Act as an ambassador for the SIGN guideline process
- Communicate as appropriate with Royal Pharmaceutical Society
- Help communicate SIGN recommendations to the clinical community
- Clearly articulate the support that you will require to help you to work with us
- Accept and provide feedback constructively

‘For the last 10 years I’ve been the RPS representative on the steering group for the SIGN/British Thoracic Society asthma guideline and for the last 18 months I’ve been co-chair of the pharmacology section.

My involvement has involved reviewing papers, input into rewording of various sections of the guideline based on the considered judgements of the review groups and attending the British Thoracic Society open meeting where the guideline undergoes open peer review. The process has allowed me to expand my knowledge of asthma management.’

– Dr Anne Boyter
Senior Lecturer and MPharm Director, School of Pharmacy, University of Strathclyde

‘As a pharmacist I found my experience as a member of a SIGN group incredibly interesting, challenging and rewarding’

– Heather Harrison
Senior Prescribing Advisor/Chronic Pain Primary Care Service Development Project Manager, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

‘The methodology involved throughout guideline development provides assurance of the highest possible standard of end product.’

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The Healthcare Environment Inspectorate, the Scottish Health Council, the Scottish Health Technologies Group, the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) and the Scottish Medicines Consortium are part of our organisation.

You can read and download this document from our website. We are happy to consider requests for other languages or formats. Please contact our Equality and Diversity Advisor on 0141 225 6999 or email contactpublicinvolvement.his@nhs.net