An overview of the work we do and the resources we provide

May 2020
Healthcare Improvement Scotland supports better quality health and social care for everyone in Scotland.

Our five key priorities are:
1. Enable people to make informed decisions about their care and treatment.
2. Help health and social care organisations continuously improve services.
3. Provide evidence and share knowledge that enables people to get the best out of the services they use.
4. Provide quality assurance that gives people confidence in the quality and sustainability of services.
5. Make the best use of resources to ensure every pound invested in our work adds value to the care people receive.

This document gives an overview of the evidence work produced by Healthcare Improvement Scotland and explains the actions that should be taken by NHS Boards and Integration Authorities when we publish our guidance. It also explains the actions required when the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) publishes Interventional Procedures Programme (IPP) guidance. Scotland is a full participant in the IPP.

### Evidence resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Evidence resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) innovative medical technology overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Standards and Indicators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) good practice recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rapid responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sharing Intelligence About the Quality of Care Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Interventional Procedures Programme (IPP) guidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Working with us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Working with us</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Requesting advice or guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Support the development of our advice and guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Please contact us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evidence resources
www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Recommendation

**Target audience**
- Policy makers and service planners
- Health and social care professionals
- Patients and the public

**Definition**
- Evidence-based SHTG recommendations are developed by a national committee in consultation with stakeholders
- Clinical effectiveness, safety, and cost effectiveness evidence will be considered; alongside patient and public views, professional expert views, and social and organisational implications
- Plain language summaries are provided.
- Timescale: 6–9 months.

**Status in Scotland**
- Boards and Integration Authorities ‘required to consider’.

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Assessment

**Target audience**
- Policy makers and service planners
- Health and social care professionals

**Definition**
- Targeted analysis to provide support for decision-making across health and social care in Scotland
- Does not include recommendations
- May include a critical appraisal or summary of existing evidence; primary analyses, such as economic modelling or budget impact assessment; qualitative synthesis
- Timescale: 3–6 months.

**Status in Scotland**
- For information
Evidence resources
www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Innovative Medical Technology Overview

Target audience
• National test-bed governance group
• Health and social care professionals

Definition
• Light-touch overview of innovative technologies for which the evidence base is emerging
• Does not include recommendations
• Describes the technology, the innovative aspect of the technology, how it fits in current practice in Scotland, and the potential impact on health and social care
• Timescale: 2–3 months.

Status in Scotland
• For information

Adaptation

Target audience
• Policy makers and service planners
• Health and social care professionals

Definition
• Based upon an HTA conducted elsewhere in the UK or internationally, with particular consideration of its applicability to NHS Scotland
• Applicability is assessed by consultation with health and care experts in Scotland
• The original HTA may be supplemented by information relevant to the NHS Scotland context
• Timescale: 3–6 months.

Status in Scotland
• For information
Evidence resources
www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Clinical guidelines
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network

Target audience
• Health and care professionals
• Managers
• The public

Definition
• Provide recommendations for effective and safe practice in management of clinical conditions
• Help reduce variations in practice so care is delivered in same way across Scotland.

Status in Scotland
• Boards and Integration Authorities required to consider for planning and delivering services
• Patient booklets are provided with each guideline for use when communicating with patients and the public.

Medicines Advice
Scottish Medicines Consortium

Target audience
• Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees
• Managers
• Prescribers
• The public

Definition
• Provide advice on clinical and cost effectiveness of:
  - All new licensed medicines
  - New formulations of established medicines
  - New indications for established medicines

Status in Scotland
• Boards and Integration Authorities required to consider all SMC accepted medicines for inclusion in their local formulary
• Patient summaries (decision explained) are provided to help patients and the public understand SMC advice.
### Standards and Indicators

**Target audience**
- Patients, services users, carers and families
- Health and care professionals
- Managers
- The public

**Definition**
- Statements of level of service public should expect
- Based on evidence relating to effective clinical and care practice, feasibility and service provision
- Responsive to service users’ needs and views
- Cover key issues relating to provision of safe, effective, person-centred care
- Indicators support service standards and are tools for quality improvement.

**Status in Scotland**
- Boards and Integration Authorities expected to meet all standards.

### Good practice recommendations for antimicrobial use

**Target audience**
- Board antimicrobial management teams
- Health and care professionals
- Managers

**Definition**
- Provide good practice recommendations for use of antimicrobials and management of infections
- Helps optimise care for patients with infections
- Helps reduce variation by supporting improvements in clinical and care practice.

**Status in Scotland**
- Boards and Integration Authorities required to consider in development of local guidelines.

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**Evidence resources**

[www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org)
Evidence resources
www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Rapid responses

Target audience
- Policy makers
- Planners
- Managers
- The public

Definition
- Intended to provide a high-level briefing on new topics submitted for HIS. Evidence support
- Undertaken when the timescales associated with the referral require a quick turnaround
- Summarises the type and quantity of the evidence available, its general quality and main conclusions
- Normally based only on published literature.

Status in Scotland
- For information

Sharing Intelligence About the Quality of Care Group

Target audience
- Seven organisations with Scotland-wide remits on improvement/scrutiny of health and care services
- NHS board senior management teams
- The public

Definition
- Seven national organisations share, consider, and (where necessary) respond to intelligence about care systems across Scotland
- Key messages from intelligence, and any actions, fed back to and discussed with NHS board
- Key messages from intelligence, and any actions, made publicly available.

Status in Scotland
- Seven national organisations meet bi-monthly to share and consider intelligence
- Any additional actions to be carried out in response to intelligence are taken forward with NHS board.
Evidence resources
National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) resources

Interventional Procedures Programme (IPP) guidance

Target audience
- Managers
- Health and care professionals
- The public

Definition
- Assess the safety and efficacy of interventional procedures to determine whether they work well enough and are safe for use
- Advice categorised as:
  - Use with standard arrangements for clinical governance, consent and audit
  - Use with special arrangements for clinical governance, consent and audit
  - Use only in research
  - Do not use.

Status in Scotland
- Scotland is a full participant and all IPP advice must be implemented.

nice.org.uk
Working with us
www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org

Requesting advice or guidance

Anyone can request advice or guidance from any of our teams at Healthcare Improvement Scotland. We will work with you on the best way to proceed with your request. Our overarching work programme is set in line with the strategic priorities of Healthcare Improvement Scotland and NHSScotland.

Support the development of our advice and guidance

There are a number of ways that you can get involved in developing our advice and guidance.

Keeping us advised: contact us if you feel that any of our advice our guidance is no longer up to date, for example if there have been new developments since they were published.

Developing advice and guidance: When advice and guidance is being developed or reviewed, we rely on representative input from health and social care, the third sector, people with lived experience, the Scottish Government and organisations specific to the issue being covered.

Giving feedback and sharing experiences: During consultation on developing advice and guidance we may publish drafts for comment on our website. We can also work with organisations or community groups to organise focus groups which we can facilitate to gather feedback.

Please contact us

Scottish Health Technologies Group
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T 0131 314 1274

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)
E sign@sign.ac.uk
T 0131 623 4720

Scottish Medicines Consortium
E hcis.smadminrequests@nhs.net

Standards and indicators
E hcis.standardsandinicators@nhs.net
T 0131 623 4702

Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group
E hcis.sapg@nhs.net