Dr Denise Coia (right) and Dr Frances Elliot (left)

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we present the first annual report produced by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Our organisation is responsible for helping NHSScotland and independent healthcare providers deliver high quality, evidence-based, safe, effective and person-centred care; and to scrutinise services to provide public assurance about the quality and safety of that care.

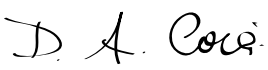
After launching on 1 April 2011, it has been a busy period for the new organisation as we integrate all the different elements which make up Healthcare Improvement Scotland. We would like to thank all involved in helping make the change to Healthcare Improvement Scotland as smooth as possible. We have taken over the responsibilities of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, as well as the regulation of independent healthcare services, previously carried out by the Care Commission. The result will be better support for healthcare providers in our shared drive to help them improve patient care.

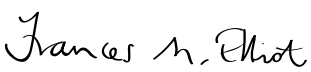
The focus of this annual report is on work undertaken in 2010–2011 by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland. However, where possible, we have sought to demonstrate how Healthcare Improvement Scotland is taking this work forward.

Our work programme continues to support Scottish Government priorities, in particular those arising from the Healthcare Quality Strategy. In addition, involving the public will remain at the heart of all that we do. We are leading on the Quality Improvement Hub which will bring improvement science into the everyday work of NHS staff for the benefit of patients. In addition, our new healthcare scrutiny model will provide a more efficient way of assessing NHS boards' performance.

Looking ahead, Healthcare Improvement Scotland faces a number of challenges. The cost impact of new medicines and technologies, regulation of independent healthcare, and the inspection of services for older people are just three areas that will have a significant bearing on our work in the coming months and years.

We look forward to collaborating with partner organisations in NHSScotland and with the Care Inspectorate, which has been set up to regulate and inspect care and children's services. Above all, we look forward to Healthcare Improvement Scotland playing a strong supportive role in delivering an effective, safe and person-centred NHS that the public can rely on.





Dr Denise Coia
Chair

Dr Frances M Elliot
Chief Executive