Evidence Products

Guidance for NHSScotland and Integration Authorities

March 2019
Supporting better quality health and social care for everyone in Scotland is the aim of Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). Working with people at every level of the health and social care system, we make sure improvements in care are informed by the experiences of people who deliver and people who use services.

We have five key priorities. These are areas where we believe we can make the most impact and where we focus our efforts and resources.

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

This document provides guidance on the actions that are required to be taken by NHS Boards and Integration Authorities when HIS publishes evidence products.

It also includes details of 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.

This document will be reviewed in 2020.
## Evidence products that provide advice and have status in Scotland

### Healthcare Improvement Scotland products

All HIS products are available at [www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org) unless otherwise stated

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Target audience</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Status in Scotland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) advice statements</td>
<td>• Policy makers</td>
<td>SHTG advice is based upon an evidence review that includes numerous elements of a traditional Health Technology Assessment (for example clinical effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness) and other important domains such as patient and public views, clinical expert opinion, and ethical and social implications of the technology under review. SHTG advice is intended to guide NHS planners and decision makers when determining the place of health technologies within the relevant local, regional or national system.</td>
<td>NHS Boards and Integration Authorities are required to consider SHTG advice statements in planning and delivering services. Plain language summaries of the advice should be used in clinical and general communications with patients and the public.</td>
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<td>Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidelines</td>
<td>• Health and care professionals</td>
<td>SIGN guidelines provide recommendations for effective and safe practice in the management of clinical conditions to reduce unwarranted variations in practice and therefore help professionals deliver effective care uniformly throughout Scotland.</td>
<td>NHS Boards and Integration Authorities are required to consider SIGN guidelines in planning and delivering services. Patient booklets accompanying the guidelines should be used in clinical and general communications with patients and the public.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.sign.ac.uk">www.sign.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>• Managers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The public</td>
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<td><strong>Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) advice</strong></td>
<td>• Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees • Managers • Prescribers • The public</td>
<td>SMC provides advice on the clinical and cost effectiveness of all new medicines, all new formulations of existing medicines and any major new indications for established products for NHSScotland. SMC does not assess vaccines, branded generics, non-prescription-only medicines, blood products, plasma substitutes and diagnostic drugs. The review of device-containing medicines is confined to those licensed as medicines by the Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Agency/European Medicines Evaluation Agency.</td>
<td>NHS Boards are required to consider all SMC accepted medicines for inclusion in their local formulary. Public summaries ('decision explained') should be used to help patients and the public understand SMC advice.</td>
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<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
<td>• Managers • Health and care professionals • The public</td>
<td>Standards are statements of levels of service performance that people should expect from health services. They are based on evidence relating to effective clinical practice, feasibility and service provision that is responsive to patients' needs and views. They cover the key issues relating to the provision of safe, effective and person-centred care and treatment.</td>
<td>NHS Boards and Integration Authorities are expected to meet all the standards.</td>
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| **Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) good practice recommendations** www.sapg.scot | • NHS Board antimicrobial management teams  
• Health and care professionals  
• Managers | SAPG provides good practice recommendations for the use of antimicrobials and management of infections across all care settings. These are intended to optimise care for patients with infections and reduce unwarranted variation through supporting improvements in clinical and care practice. | NHS Boards and Integration Authorities are required to consider SAPG recommendations in the development of their local guidelines. |

| **Other Healthcare Improvement Scotland guidelines** | • Health and care professionals  
• Managers  
• The public | Provide recommendations for effective and safe practice in the management of clinical conditions. | NHS Boards and Integration Authorities are required to consider guidelines in planning and delivering services. |
### Evidence products that provide advice and have status in Scotland

**National Institute of Health and Care Excellence product**
Available at [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

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| **Interventional Procedures Programme (IPP) guidance** | • Managers  
• Health professionals  
• The public | The IPP assesses the safety and efficacy of interventional procedures to determine whether they work well enough and are safe enough for use in the NHS.  
Advice is 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, and  
• do not use. | Scotland is a full participant in the IPP and all IPP advice must be implemented. |
### Other Healthcare Improvement Scotland evidence products

Available at [www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org)

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| **Rapid response**              | • Policy makers • Planners • Managers • The public | Defines and answers a specific question relating to health and care, rather than broad health system issues, which may be used to inform further review.  
Summarises the type and quantity of evidence available, its general quality and main conclusions.  
Rapid responses are normally based on only published literature. However, unpublished evidence may be included in circumstances where no or very little published evidence has been identified. | For information.   |
| **Evidence synthesis**          | • Policy makers • Planners • Managers • The public | Provides evidence-based information to support time-sensitive decision making or to inform policy and practice across Scotland.  
Evidence syntheses may include a review of the existing evidence, or may involve primary analyses in order to answer the question posed by the referrer, for example economic analysis, budget impact assessment, and/or qualitative synthesis of patient/public and clinical views. | For information.   |
| **Innovative Medical Technology Overview (IMTO)** | • Policy makers • Planners • Managers • The public | IMTOs provide impartial evidence-based information to assist decision making around the implementation of innovative technologies in NHSScotland.  
**IMTOs do not** contain recommendations or advice for adoption or use and should be considered alongside existing guidelines applicable to NHSScotland. | For information.   |