National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

AT HOME IN HOSPITAL: A GUIDE
CHILDREN FIRST: A STUDY OF HOSPITAL SERVICES

28 October 1993

Summary

1   This letter brings to your attention two guidance documents: "At Home in Hospital - a Guide to Care of Children and Young People" prepared by the Health Policy and Public Directorate and the Audit Commission Report: "Children First: A Study of Hospital Services".

2.   "At home in hospital" is based on the Department of Health document: "Welfare of Children and Young People in Hospital" which was issued to health boards in Scotland in January 1992 for information. The Guide has been specifically tailored to meet Scottish needs and circumstances.

Action

3.   General Managers and Chief Executives are asked to take into account the principles and recommendations set out in the Guide:

♦   when developing service specifications for children's hospital services
♦   agency contacts
♦   ensuring delivery of high quality, efficient services.

4.   You are also asked to consider the findings of the Audit Commission's report which, although it is based on shortcomings identified in England and Wales, contains principles of care equally applicable to Scotland. The Scottish Office Audit Unit will be reporting early in 1994 on their audit of hospital services for children in Scotland.

5.   Additional copies of both documents may be obtained from HMSO outlets and bookshops.

Yours sincerely

ISABELLE LOW
Director of Health Care

Addressees

For Action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

For information:
General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
State Hospital

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

Directors of
Social Work

Local Health Councils

To be copied to
Unit General Managers
for action

Enquiries to:

Mrs M W Robertson
HPPHD1/3
Room 54
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DE
Tel: 031-244 2456

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