



# THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

NHS:  
MEL(1993)33

## National Health Service in Scotland Management Executive

St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

### PATHOLOGY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

#### Summary

1. NHS MEL(1992)17 dated 21 May 1992 advised Health Boards of the national accreditation scheme for pathology departments which came into effect on 6 April 1992. This letter reminds Health Boards and NHS Trusts of the need to have their laboratories accredited, if they have not already done so.

#### Background

2. Between April and December 1992 (the latest date for which information is available) enquiries have been received from 63 laboratories in Scotland. Six have been accredited and 14 have been given provisional approval. The Clinical Pathology Accreditation Scheme is very important in that purchasers should obtain laboratory services only from accredited laboratories. Further information on accreditation can be obtained from Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd, Pathology Block, The Children's Hospital, Sheffield, S10 2TH (Telephone or Fax 0742 780428).

#### Action

3. Health Board General Managers and Trust Chief Executives should copy this MEL to Unit General Managers and Heads of Laboratories or Business Managers to ensure that all staff are aware of the standards of service required for accreditation. It is also important that fundholding GPs are aware of the scheme. Accordingly the letter should also be drawn to the attention of actual or potential fundholders.

4. As the accreditation scheme is intended to be self-financing, laboratories, as providers of the service, should seek reimbursement of the cost from their purchasers.

Yours sincerely

PP G W TUCKER  
Directorate of Strategic Management

J1301305.023

23 March 1993

#### Addressees

For action:  
General Managers,  
Health Boards

Chief Executives and  
Chief Executives  
Designate, NHS Trusts

To be copied to Unit  
General Managers,  
Heads of Laboratories  
and Business Managers  
for action

#### For information:

General Manager,  
Health Education Board  
for Scotland

General Manager,  
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State  
Hospital

Health Board General  
Practice Funding  
Liaison Officers

#### Enquiries to:

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