



Home and Health Department

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19 January 1994

Dear Colleague

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
THE NHS IN SCOTLAND - IMPLEMENTATION
GROUP**

Summary

1. This circular draws the attention of Health Boards to the establishment of the Implementation Group to take forward the R&D strategy at grass roots level.

Action

2. Health Boards and NHS Trusts are asked to note the setting up of the Implementation Group.

Background

3. In October 1993 the Government launched their research and development strategy for the NHS in Scotland. The overall objective of the strategy is to ensure that the content and delivery of care in the NHS is based on high quality research relevant to the improvement of the health of the people in Scotland. The strategy seeks to highlight opportunities for investing in health gain and to realise the benefits of that investment. It underlines the importance of well focused investment in R&D and of having a clear commitment from leaders in the Scottish Health Service to the value of R&D for the future success of the NHS in leading the drive for better health in Scotland.

4. A key feature of the strategy is the creation, within the NHS, of partnerships between researchers, clinicians and managers opening up new channels of communication through which a clear understanding of health issues and the role of research in providing solutions can be promoted.

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives, and
Chief Executive
Designate, NHS Trusts

For information
General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager, State
Hospital

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

To be copied to Unit
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Implementation

5. This R&D strategy is the first comprehensive approach to developing a national R&D infrastructure to health care. In the future, it should become standard practice to rely on high quality research findings in everyday decision making and in longer term strategic planning. The strategy will need to develop and evolve over time, and emphasis, particularly initially, is being placed on securing the support of the NHS at local level, developing the R&D agenda and helping to achieve a better co-ordinated approach which places emphasis on ensuring that the beneficial results of R&D are reflected in practice.

6. An R&D Implementation Group has been set up to advance the implementation process at grass roots level. It is to be chaired by Mr Derek Banks, General Manager of Dumfries and Galloway Health Board and has representatives from the purchaser and provider elements of the NHS. (A list of members is attached). The first meeting of this group has been arranged for the end of January. Related action is already underway in that Health Boards and NHS Trusts have been asked to identify an individual within their Board or Trust who has responsibility for research and development. The Implementation Group will report to a Departmental Strategy Group for R&D in the NHS, set up to monitor the process, which the Chief Scientist will chair. Ultimately the success of the R&D strategy depends upon the active involvement of all those working in the NHS in Scotland.



A T B MOIR
Director/Deputy Chief Scientist

**R&D Strategy for the NHS
Implementation Group: Membership**

Mr D Banks (Chairman)
General Manager
Dumfries and Galloway Health Board
Nithbank
DUMFRIES

Dr D Maclean
Director of Medical Services
Dundee Teaching Hospitals Trust
Ninewells Hospital
DUNDEE

Miss E Alexander
Assistant Director
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Kirkcaldy Acute Unit
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Director of Medical Services
Grampian Healthcare NHS Trust
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