



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT ON VASCULAR
SURGERY SERVICES IN SCOTLAND

Summary

1. This letter draws the attention of Health Boards and Trusts to the attached Report, prepared by a Working Group on Vascular Surgery Services in Scotland. The Working Group was appointed by the Scottish Health Service Advisory Council in 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr Gerry Fowkes.

Background

2. Its main recommendations include minimum requirements for vascular units to provide an effective and safe service and suggestions about the distribution of vascular disease.

3. Disease affecting the circulation is a major problem in Scotland, accounting for considerable morbidity in the population and substantial use of hospital services. In recent years surgical units have faced an increasing demand for the treatment of vascular disease.

4. The remit of the Working Group was to "consider the present and future provision of peripheral vascular surgery services in Scotland, pay due regard to safety, access and efficiency in relation to clinical outcome". The Report assesses the current status of these services in Scotland, analyses available data, and makes recommendations about future requirements which are directed primarily towards improved services for patients.

5. Additional copies of the Report are available from HMSO, priced £8.75.

Action

6. The Management Executive welcomes the Report as a timely guidance to both purchasers and providers and invites Health Boards and Trusts, the independent sector and all other interested parties to take the Report's recommendations into account when determining the delivery of vascular surgery services in Scotland. Boards will need to decide if they accept the findings of the report that outcomes of vascular surgery will be improved by

28 February 1994

Addressees

For action:

General Managers,
Health Boards

General Manager,
State Hospital

Chief Executives, and
Chief Executives
Designate,
NHS Trusts

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

For information:

To be copied to Unit
General Managers for
Information

Enquiries to:

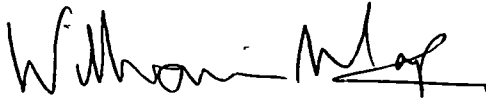
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concentrating provision in fewer Trusts/Units and organise their purchasing plans and contracts in order to achieve the recommended pattern of provision. Boards would also need to monitor outcomes in order to be able to make a proper evaluation of that pattern of provision.

7. This letter is copied to Unit General Managers for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Moyes', with a horizontal line drawn through the end of the signature.

WILLIAM MOYES
Directorate of Strategic Management