



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**AUDIT STUDY OF CHILD HEALTH SERVICES IN
ACUTE HOSPITALS**

Summary

1. This letter brings to your attention the Report "Caring for Sick Children: A Study of Hospital Services in Scotland" prepared by The Scottish Office Audit Unit.
2. The report focuses mainly on the providers of children's services and on general acute hospitals in particular. It confirms that, on the whole, hospitals deliver a high quality of service for children in line with standards laid down in "At Home in Hospital: A Guide to Care of Children and Young People" issued under cover of MEL(1993)140.
3. It acknowledges however that not every child receives the same standard of care and that the operation of mixed-age policy in some specialities leads to compromises in the standard of child care.

Action

4. General Managers and Chief Executives are asked to take into account the checklist for purchasers and providers when planning and contracting for children's hospital services. The checklist summarises the main aspects to be considered and identifies the likely level of responsibility on each issue.

Yours sincerely

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