



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

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Dear Colleague

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HEALTH BUILDINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

Summary

1. I am pleased to draw your attention to the enclosed publication "Health Buildings in the Community".
2. This document has been produced for use within the NHS in England but is equally relevant here. It will be of benefit to all those involved in developing community facilities whether they be GP practices, local health resource centres or community hospitals. The theme of the Report is that better buildings can help make people better and the design, detailing and management of health buildings can have a significant influence on the well-being of patients.
3. The publication brings together experience gained through local initiatives and seeks to set the standard for the design of local health buildings. It is a high but realistic standard, based on what has been achieved within the NHS. It does not prescribe a formula for design, but presents a range of solutions to further encourage innovation and local interpretation of the principles of comfort, safety and dignity.
4. The Patients Charter and internal market have put more emphasis on quality issues; a poor environment can work against the high quality and dedicated care delivered by individuals and teams. Linked to a policy to provide high quality health services as near peoples homes as possible, the document highlights factors which most influence a patient's perception, and shows examples of best practice which should set the standard for the design of buildings providing healthcare in the community.

Action

5. All those with an interest in the provision of healthcare outwith the general hospital environment are invited to draw on the publication as a useful aid in efforts to provide quality healthcare in appropriate surroundings.

14 January 1995

Addressees

For Action

Chief Executives
NHS Trusts

Acting Chief
Executives
Shadow NHS Trusts

Unit General Managers
Island Health Boards

General Manager
Common Services Agency

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For Information

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6. Supplies of the publication are being forwarded to each Board under separate cover for distribution to GP practices on the Board's list.

Other Information

7. The Report was compiled by NHS Estates, an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, and that Department's Advisory Group on Estate Management.

8. The Report is issued as part of the Estatecode series of guidance. Further copies are available from HMSO (ISBN 0-11-321764-1).

Related Information

9. Colleagues will note that as this is a publication for the NHS in England, some references are inappropriate to the NHS in Scotland, for example, references to Family Health Service Authorities (FHSAs), to the Capital Investment Manual, and to the Royal Institute of British Architects rather than the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS).

10. Reference might also be made to Better-By-Design also available from HMSO (ISBN 0-11-321757-9).

Yours faithfully



H R McCALLUM
Head of Estates
Directorate of Trusts



AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care