



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

National Health Service in Scotland Management Executive

**NHS:
MEL(1995)11**

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

SNAP REPORT ON ACCIDENTS

1. A series of reports are attached produced by the Scottish Needs Assessment Programme on accidents. The Reports relate to:

- school accidents;
- work place accidents;
- road accidents;
- leisure and water accidents;
- home accidents.

All 5 reports emphasise the need for a multi-agency approach towards accident prevention.

Background

2. Deaths resulting from accidents are the fourth largest single cause of death in Scotland and the third largest single cause of life years lost before the age of 75. Much of the impact is due to deaths among children and young adults, especially young men. Morbidity is harder to ascertain. Information on community morbidity is not collected nationally whilst Accident and Emergency department information concentrates on the injury rather than place of injury or causation. Additionally, the lack of a common data set of information agreed by the various agencies limits the use which can be made of the data available.

Reducing Accidents

3. How far we can influence the risk factors leading to accidents depends very much on the setting in which the potential accident takes place. Much more research is required in this area.

4. Purchasing Issues

4.1 Health boards should cooperate with other agencies to produce strategies for accident prevention.

4.2 Purchasers should encourage Health Alliances to examine accidents locally and produce action plans.

13 February 1995

Addressees

For action:

General Managers,
Health Boards

GP Fundholders

For information:

General Manager,
Common Services Agency

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

General Manager,
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Chief Executives,
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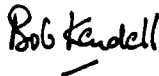
4.3 Purchasers and alliance partners should give priority to establishing an agreed minimum data set, common to all agencies concerned including Accident and Emergency Departments.

4.4 Purchasers should promote and encourage:

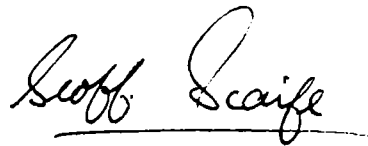
- a multi-agency approach to reducing injuries from road accidents;
- health promotion initiatives with employers to include accident prevention;
- regular review by schools of information on accidents to identify risks and design an action plan;
- the collection and analysis of data on accidents by leisure and sports centres and clubs to identify risks and design an action plan.

We expect purchasers to use these reports to inform their purchasing strategies in discussion with NHS Trusts and other providers.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Medical Officer



GEOFF SCAIFE
Chief Executive, NHS in Scotland