



National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

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Dear Colleague

CLINICAL OUTCOME INDICATORS

Summary

1. This report continues the work initiated in 1992 on outcome indicators in selected areas of care in the NHS in Scotland. 15 new indicators are presented in the areas of maternal and child health, cancer survival and readmission after selected surgical procedures.

Action

2. Purchasers and providers are again asked to consider each indicator critically and to identify any areas in which improvements may be possible. The Clinical Outcomes Working Group will be continuing work on new indicators and developing sources of good quality information on which reporting may be based.
3. Health Boards are asked to circulate the report to GPs in their area. Bulk supplies will be provided for that purpose.
4. Purchasers and providers are asked to review the quality and completeness of the information on which this report is based and consider the possible causes of the variations which emerge between health board areas and between providers. CRAG is arranging meetings to discuss these issues in the Autumn and managers as well as clinical staff are encouraged to attend.

Use of Outcome Indicators

5. Specific attention is drawn to the care with which these indicators must be interpreted in the light of all local circumstances. They should not be used as the basis of inappropriate or premature conclusions about which Health Boards or which hospitals provide the best care.

Yours sincerely

Bob Kendall

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Chief Medical Officer

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