



NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
13 September 1996

Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH HEALTH PURCHASING INFORMATION CENTRE

REPORT ON DYSPEPSIA, PEPTIC ULCER AND HELICOBACTER PYLORI

Summary

1. A report by the Scottish Health Purchasing Information Centre on Dyspepsia, Peptic Ulcer and Helicobacter Pylori is attached.
2. The Report examines treatments for dyspepsia and peptic ulcer, and in particular the eradication of the bacterium Helicobacter Pylori, which is present in nearly all cases of gastritis and gastric and duodenal ulcer.
3. The Report concludes that:
 - a. eradication therapy should replace acid reducing drugs in the treatment of most patients with peptic ulcer;
 - b. breath testing for Helicobacter Pylori should be made available to GPs; and
 - c. Helicobacter testing will reduce the number of endoscopies required.
4. This is the Scottish Health Purchasing Information Centre's first Report. It will publish a series of further Reports, including a number of Common Core Work Programme topics, during the year.
5. Information on the Common Core Work Programme and the Scottish Health Purchasing Centre is given in the Annex. Clinical guidelines on Helicobacter Pylori will be issued in the next few weeks by Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network.

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, State Hospitals Board for Scotland
Executive Director, SCPMDE
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts
GP Practices

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Action

6. Purchasers should use this Report when assessing local needs. Health Boards are asked to pass copies of this circular to all General Practitioner practices within their area. Sufficient copies will be forwarded to Health Boards for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Woods', written over a horizontal line.

KEVIN J WOODS
Director of Purchasing

COMMON CORE WORK PROGRAMME

The Common Core Work Programme is designed to steer the efforts of professional and other groups working at a national level in the pursuit of clinical and cost effectiveness, to reduce duplication of effort, to limit the number of national imperatives to a manageable number and to co-ordinate local and national imperatives.

Its purpose is to help improve health and the quality, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of clinical care by providing the Service with information and advice, such as needs assessment or clinical guidelines on a small number of important clinical topics.

Much of the work of the Programme supports the 3 Service priority areas of cancer, mental health and coronary heart disease/stroke, but it is not limited to these areas. It also includes topics which are important because there is clear immediate potential to improve health and/or clinical care. The topics for 1996-97 are:

Acute stroke	Breast Cancer
Colorectal cancer	Dementia
Hip fracture	Peptic ulcer
Hypertension, with a focus on the elderly	Schizophrenia

The main organisations associated with the Common Core Work programme are:

Clinical Resource and Audit Group
Chief Scientist Office
National Professional Advisory Committees
Scottish Health Purchasing Information Centre
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network
Scottish Needs Assessment Programme

Further information on the Common Core Work Programme is available in MEL(1995)84.

SCOTTISH HEALTH PURCHASING INFORMATION CENTRE

The Scottish Health Purchasing Information Centre carries out reviews of research on the clinical and cost effectiveness of specific health care interventions and produces short reports on costed options for purchasing in a standard format for purchasers. It also updates reports in the light of further research evidence.

The Centre's core programme of work is set by the Chief Executive of the NHS in Scotland on the advice of the Joint Working Group on Purchasing, and comprises the production of reports for purchasers on topics in the Common Core Work Programme. The Centre has links with the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), the Scottish Needs Assessment Programme (SNAP) and other professional groups.