



**FOR  
REFERENCE ONLY**

NHS Management Executive  
St. Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
21st June 1997  
Telephone 0131-244  
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June 1997

Dear Colleague

**NHS SUPPORT FOR NON-COMMERCIAL EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Summary**

1. A draft document "NHS Support for Non-Commercial Externally Funded R&D" was issued for consultation under cover of my letter of 21 November 1996. It set out proposals for clarifying the basis on which the Scottish Health Service will continue to support non-commercial R&D funded by external research funders and sought comment on these proposals.

2. One particular issue was the funding arrangements for Treatment Costs and in "R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers: An Introduction" published as an accompaniment to MEL(1997)7 "Supporting Research and Development in the NHS - Invitation to Bid" it was declared that arrangements for meeting these Treatment Costs would be published separately during 1997.

3. Comments on the document were received from Health Boards, Trusts, GP Practices; Teaching Establishments and a wide range of other bodies. The large majority were supportive of the proposals and responses have been taken into account in preparing the revised document which is enclosed.

**Action**

4. In respect of R&D starting on or after 1 April 1998, NHS Purchasers and NHS Trusts should:

- note the general responsibilities for funding patient care costs associated with R&D;
- note the specific expectations in respect of externally funded non-commercial R&D;

**Addressees:**

**For action:**

NHS Trust Chief Executives  
General Managers, Health Boards  
R&D Lead Officers

**For information:**

General Manager, Common Services Agency  
General Manager, Health Education Board for Scotland  
General Manager, State Hospitals Board for Scotland  
Executive Director, SCPMDE

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- facilitate and support R&D accordingly;
- ensure that Treatment Costs continue to be met through normal contracting processes.

5. In addition, NHS Providers should:

- note their specific role in notification arrangements for externally funded non-commercial R&D;

and NHS Purchasers should:

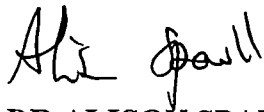
- ensure that their contracts with Providers other than NHS Trusts require those Providers to follow these guidelines.

6. GPs and other Independent Family Health Services Providers with an interest in R&D are asked to note these guidelines, and are encouraged to operate within them. Copies of the document for those so interested may be had on request to Mr Barry Wilson.

7. General Managers of Health Boards are requested to circulate this MEL without the accompanying document to GPs; GDPs; Community Pharmacists and Optometrists within their area.

8. Copies of this MEL and accompanying documents have also gone to Trust R&D Lead Officers.

Yours sincerely



**DR ALISON SPAULL**  
**Director**  
**Chief Scientist Office**