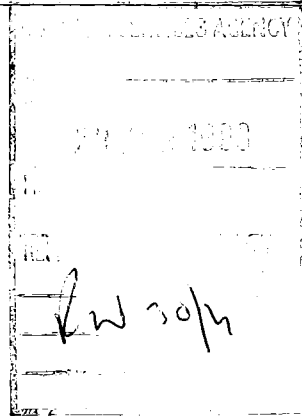




NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
30th April 1998
Telephone 0131-244 2769
Fax 0131-244 ~~2285~~ 2285



Dear Colleague

NATIONAL RESEARCH REGISTER - GUIDANCE TO NHS PROVIDERS ON DATA SUBMISSION

Summary

1. The National Research Register (NRR) is a key element of an information systems strategy for NHS R&D. The NRR is designed to provide a systematic record of R&D projects being supported by, undertaken by, or of interest to the NHS. A principal source of data will be NHS Providers in receipt of Support Funding from the NHS R&D Support Fund. Agreements for R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers contain a requirement for the Provider to contribute information to the NRR.

2. The attached Guidance to NHS Providers on Data Submission, provides information on the process for submitting data to the NRR service supplier, the data content and the structure of data to be submitted. The data dictionary at Appendix A to the Guidance, indicates the minimum information required in order for the NRR to meet the objectives, whilst minimising the data collection burden on Providers.

3. An NRR service supplier is being appointed to collect and collate information from data providers. Included within the service will be a national telephone help desk to deal with technical and other queries from data providers. The help desk will be in place in good time before the deadline for the first submission of data to the NRR. Further guidance and advice may also be sought from the R&D Information Manager of the Chief Scientist Office.

4. A simple NRR data collection tool will be developed and made available on request free of charge to data providers by the NRR service supplier. This tool will allow those data providers who do not already have a suitable system for collecting NRR data locally, to supply the required information in the correct format to the NRR service supplier.

Action Required

5. Chief Executives of NHS Trusts (in particular but not confined to

April 1998

Addressees:

For action:

NHS Trust Chief Executives
General Managers, Health Boards

For information:

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

Enquiries to:

Alan Woodhouse
Room 227b
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2259
Fax: 0131-244 2285

Further copies from:

Alison McIntosh
Room 224
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2215
Fax: 0131-244 2285

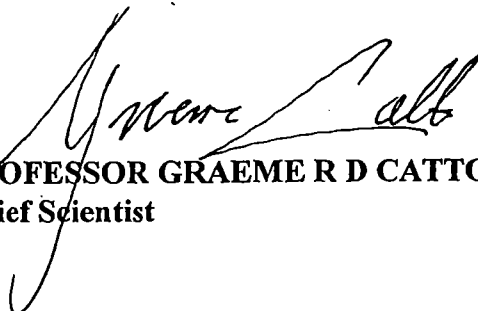
SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE
COMMUNITY INVESTIGATIONS AND RESEARCH
Date: *30/4*
Ref: *IP-N: 102691*
Price: */*

those in receipt from 1 April 1998 of R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers*) should bring the information in this MEL to the attention of their staff, and set in hand the action necessary to contribute information to the NRR.

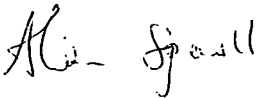
6. General Managers of Health Boards should bring the information in this MEL to the attention of the family health services contractors registered with the Health Board for the provision of family health services* with a known interest in research (in particular but not confined to those in receipt from 1 April 1998 of R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers), and ensure they set in hand the action necessary to contribute information to the NRR.

7. The deadline for the first submission of data is 2 October 1998.

Yours sincerely



PROFESSOR GRAEME R D CATTO
Chief Scientist



DR ALISON SPAULL
Director
Chief Scientist Office

**A list of Trusts and FHS contractors in receipt of R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers is attached.*

BACKGROUND AND OTHER INFORMATION

When a clinician or manager working in research wants to access research findings, they can turn to databases of published research such as Medline or systematic reviews databases such as the Cochrane Library.

However, accessing information on research in progress is more difficult. The National Research Register (NRR) is designed to address the problem of accessing such information.

The NRR is an electronic register of research in progress in or of interest to the NHS and provides the means to:

- provide early warning on research which may lead to important research findings;
- identify unwanted duplication in research - a waste of resources as well as potentially unethical;
- help improve the quality of research by learning from existing protocols;
- identify unpublished research - particularly important to systematic reviewers of research;
- identify and bring together researchers between and across related areas of research.

The NRR currently includes research commissioned through the Health Technology Assessment programme, other NHS national and regional programmes of R&D, the Department of Health's Policy Research Programme and Scottish and Welsh Office funded work.

Future editions will be expanded to include work supported by the new R&D Support Fund within NHS Provider Units (through *R&D Support for NHS Providers*), as well as other R&D of interest to the NHS. This is expected to boost the number of records held significantly.

The NRR is currently available on CD-ROM. There are plans to improve access to the NRR by making it available via the internet and NHSnet. Users can search the information held on the NRR using the same interface developed for the Cochrane Library. Searchers can focus on work within subject areas. Alternatively, they can focus on R&D funded by a particular organisation, or carried out by a particular Trust.

Associated Documentation

R&D Support Funding for NHS Providers from 1998/99 - Invitation to Bid

NHS PROVIDERS IN RECEIPT OF R&D SUPPORT FUNDING 1998/99

Aberdeen Royal Hospitals
West Glasgow Hospitals University
Tayside Consortium
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Glasgow Royal Infirmary
Western General Hospital
Yorkhill
Southern General
Edinburgh Healthcare
Grampian Healthcare
Edinburgh Sick Children
Glasgow Dental Hospital and School
Greater Glasgow Community and Mental Health Services
Victoria Infirmary
Stobhill
Ayrshire and Arran Community Health
Monklands & Bellshill
Borders General Hospital
Central Scotland Healthcare
Inverclyde Royal
West Lothian
North Ayrshire and Arran
Law Hospital
Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary
Royal Alexandra
Forth Valley Locality Commissioning Team
Dr Philip Wilson and Consortium
Ancrum Research Practice