



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

NHS  
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19th November 1998  
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Professional Bodies/  
Other organisations – See Annex

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Dear Colleague

**COMMISSIONING CANCER SERVICES:  
CANCER GENETICS SERVICES IN SCOTLAND**

**Summary**

A copy of the final report, *Cancer Genetics Services in Scotland* is attached. Responses to the consultation exercise earlier this year were in the main supportive of the proposals set out and the enclosed final version has been amended as appropriate to reflect the comments made.

Additional funding of £250,000 to cover the costs of Genetics Associates' posts to be established in the Regional Genetics Clinics was announced by the Secretary of State on 21st October 1998. This sum has been included in the allocations to Health Boards for 1999-2000.

**Action**

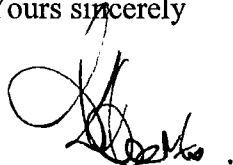
The report recommends how genetics screening services should be developed for people with a significant family history of breast, colorectal or ovarian cancer. Health Boards and Regional Genetics Clinics will be responsible for developing appropriate frameworks to take forward implementation as set out in Chapter 11 of the Report. However, it is anticipated that there will be a need for more detailed guidance to assist with this process.

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A **Cancer Genetics Sub-Group** of the Scottish Cancer Group is therefore being set up. The members of this Group, who will be drawn from among Regional Genetics Clinics, Health Boards, clinicians, primary care and other areas, will prepare more detailed guidance which will be issued to the Service over the next few months. As recommended by the Report, overall responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the cancer genetics programme will rest with the **Scottish Cancer Group**.

Yours sincerely



**SIR DAVID CARTER**  
Chief Medical Officer



**KEVIN WOODS**  
Director of Strategy and  
Performance Management

**COMMISSIONING CANCER SERVICES IN SCOTLAND  
REPORT - "CANCER GENETICS SERVICES IN SCOTLAND"**

Professional bodies/other organisations to whom this letter and Annex have been sent are:

- members of the Scottish Cancer Group
- Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow
- Royal College of General Practitioners, Scottish Council
- Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- Scottish Standing Committee, Royal College of Radiologists
- Scottish Standing Committee, Royal College of Pathologists
- College of Radiographers
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Scottish Department
- Academy of Royal Colleges and Faculties in Scotland
- British Medical Association, Scottish Office
- Scottish Association of GP Fundholders
- Scottish Joint Consultants' Committee
- Royal College of Nursing Scottish Board
- Scottish General Medical Services Committee
- British Association of Paediatric Surgeons
- British Paediatric Association
- Scottish Association of Health Councils
- Scottish Partnership Agency for Palliative and Cancer Care
- Chairman, National Medical Advisory Committee
- Chairman, National Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Advisory Committee
- Chairman, National Dental Advisory Committee
- Chairman, National Paramedical Advisory Committee
- Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee
- Chairman, National Advisory Committee for Scientific Services
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund Office for Scotland
- Scottish Breast Cancer Campaign
- Breast Cancer Care