

Dear Colleague

## **NHS Scotland Scan for Safety (SfS) Programme**

Further to initial discussions last year, under my sponsorship, the NHS Scotland Scan for Safety Programme (SfS) in relation to medical devices has now been established and will take a system wide approach to the collection of core data.

Traceability of devices, patient safety and determining real world clinical outcomes in the use of medical devices has been a long term issue and formed key recommendations in Baroness Cumberlege's Independent Review of Medicines and Medical Devices. Improving system wide data on medical devices is fundamental to improving patient safety.

The NHS Scotland Scan for Safety Programme is aligned with the aims of Realistic Medicine and will prepare for legislative changes (under the Medicines and Medical Devices Act 2021) which will require all NHS Boards to collect core medical device data. The Programme will build on the current implementation of the National Inventory Management System to deliver transformative improvements in medical device traceability and opportunities to improve knowledge of real world outcomes.

A 'Once for Scotland' approach is being taken to manage costs and will ensure that as much of the required activities that can be undertaken by a national programme Implementation Team. Funding for the implementation has been secured until March 2023 with confirmation of funding for future years awaiting the outcome of Scottish Government's Resource Spending Review process.

**From the Chief Medical Officer  
Professor Sir Gregor Smith**

---

9 May 2022

---

SGHD/CMO(2022)20

### **Addresses**

#### For action

NHS Board Chairs  
NHS Board Chief Executives

#### For information

NHS Board Medical Directors  
NHS Board Nurse Directors  
NHS Board Finance Directors  
NHS Board Chief Operations Officers

### **Further Enquiries to:**

Medical Devices and Legislation Unit  
St Andrew's House  
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Email:

[NSS.ScanForSafetyProgramme@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.ScanForSafetyProgramme@nhs.scot)

The NHS Scotland Scan for Safety Programme will deliver improvements in patient safety by enabling the traceability of medical devices from manufacture to point of care in patients and will enable NHS Scotland to enact and manage product and patient recalls faster and more accurately than we are able today.

These benefits, along with opportunities for operational and efficiency savings, will be delivered through this national programme of work, led by NHS National Services Scotland (NSS). Dr Lorna Ramsay, NSS Medical Director is the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for this Programme and will chair the programme board supported by Simon White as National Programme Director. I have every confidence in them both, along with the combined NSS and SG team under them, to deliver a national programme of this importance.

## **Next Steps**

Over the next couple of months, Simon White, Programme Director will be undertaking a programme of engagement and discussion with NHS Boards and executive level groups including medical and nursing directors, finance directors and e-Health leads to discuss Boards requirements and how we can support Boards with this work.

**In order to ensure we have a contact in each of the Boards to plan this engagement, I would be grateful if you could nominate a lead contact for your Board.** This person should have a senior clinical background or someone who will have a patient safety focus and will be responsible for establishing local resources to work closely with the SG/NSS programme team and link different operational areas.

**All nominations including their contact details should be sent to the Scan for Safety team at the following: [NSS.ScanForSafetyProgramme@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.ScanForSafetyProgramme@nhs.scot) by no later than Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

Further information and details about the NHS Scotland Scan for Safety Programme will follow but in the meantime should you require any further information please contact the Scan for Safety Team directly by emailing the following address:  
[NSS.ScanForSafetyProgramme@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.ScanForSafetyProgramme@nhs.scot).

I thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

*Gregor Smith*

Professor Sir Gregor Smith  
**Chief Medical Officer**