

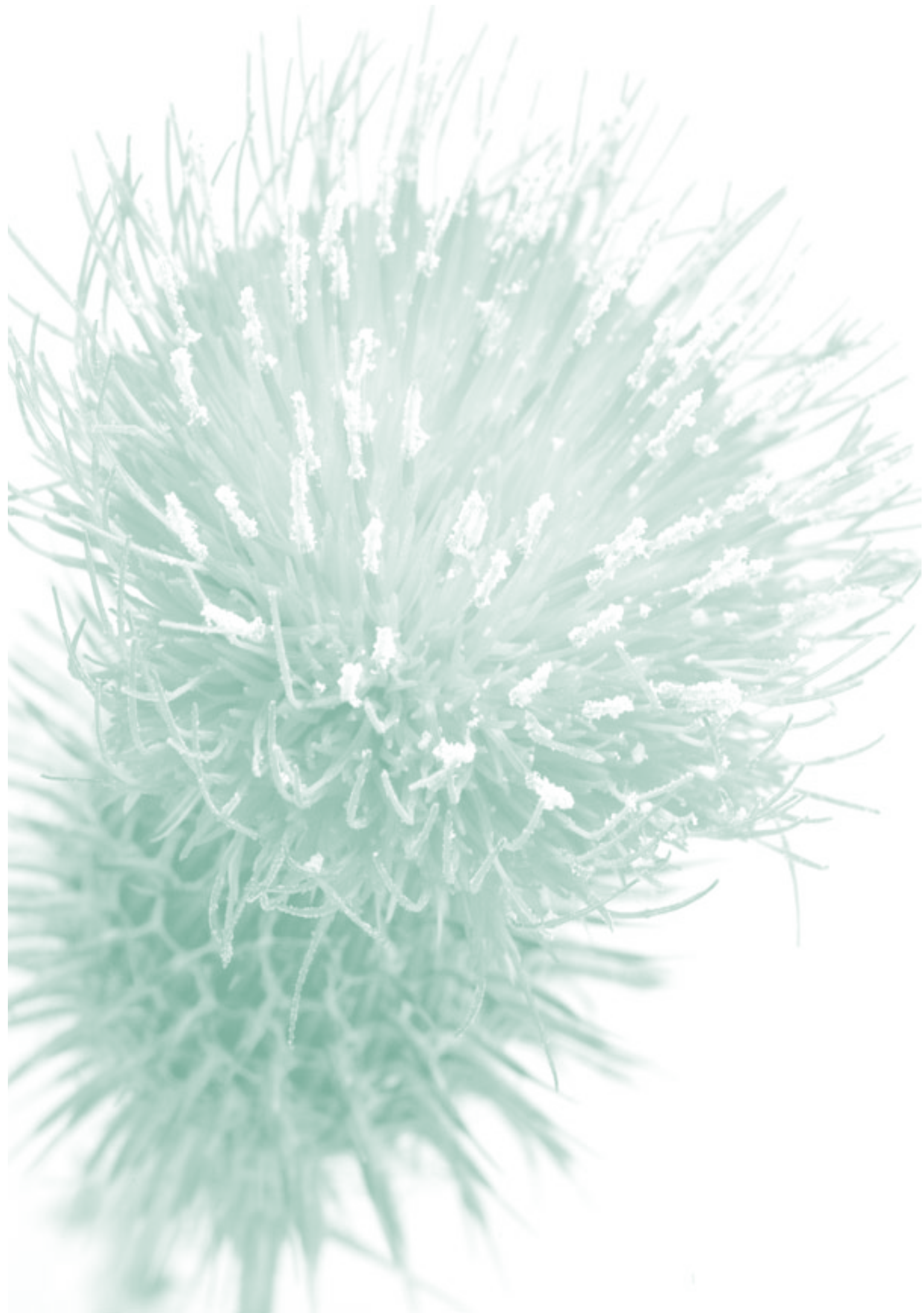
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network

2005/6 Annual Report



Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network





BACKGROUND

SIGN's aim is to 'improve the quality of health care for patients in Scotland by reducing variation in practice and outcome, through the development and dissemination of national clinical guidelines containing recommendations for effective practice based on current evidence.'

In working towards this goal, SIGN has become a world leading guideline development organisation. SIGN is represented on the board of the Guidelines International Network (GIN), which brings together more than 60 guideline development organisations from across the world.

Since January 2005, SIGN has been part of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS).

SIGN Council is a multi-disciplinary group representing the key stakeholders in delivering healthcare, and including representatives from the medical royal colleges and their faculties in Scotland, other professional healthcare organisations, lay representatives and NHS QIS.

SIGN Council meets three times a year to oversee, and recommend to NHS QIS, the guideline development programme and to advise on enhancements to SIGN methodology. Details about how SIGN works, the methodology, the work programme and all our guidelines are available on our website www.sign.ac.uk

2005/6 OVERVIEW

The guideline development programme included 23 guidelines, at differing stages of development, covering all the national clinical priority areas. More than 550 people across NHSScotland were involved in the development of these guidelines, as well as around 50 patient and lay representatives.

GUIDELINE PUBLICATIONS 2005/6

- British guideline on asthma (web-based annual update)
- SIGN 82 Bipolar affective disorder
- SIGN 83 Prevention and management of dental decay in the pre-school child
- SIGN 84 Management of breast cancer in women
- SIGN 85 Management of transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder
- SIGN 86 Management of patients with dementia

NATIONAL MEETINGS

The main consultation phase in the development of a SIGN guideline is the National Open Meeting, where draft guidelines are discussed by their potential end users. Four meetings have been held this year:

- Coronary heart disease (CHD) review (September 2005) – a hugely successful day with more than 500 participants from across Scotland
- Autism spectrum disorders (October 2005)
- Hepatitis C (November 2005)
- Bronchiolitis (December 2005)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

SIGN has been increasingly proactive in publishing articles about its work. During 2005/6 we have authored or co-authored articles for:

- Scottish Medical Journal
- Surgeons' News (Journal of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh)
- Evidence Based Healthcare and Public Health
- Singapore Medical Journal
- International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry
- World Health Organisation (WHO): Health Economics Network.

NHSSCOTLAND ACTIVITIES

- SIGN has continued to participate in national groups and initiatives, including the National Dataset Development programme and the National Prospective Cancer Audit Working Group
- SIGN staff have been actively involved in the Agenda for Change process, the Partnership Forum and increasingly in other groups and initiatives within NHS QIS
- A seminar was held in February for the Scottish Executive Health Department and NHSQIS colleagues to discuss economics issues with regard to SIGN guidelines. This work will be taken forward by a short life working group
- SIGN has been working with colleagues in Health Protection Scotland to share experience in critical appraisal and in producing evidence based guidelines and considering methodologies for adapting guidelines
- SIGN and NICE continue to collaborate on mutually important issues and meet on a quarterly basis. In March a new partnership agreement was signed by both organisations
- SIGN has been awarded the Plain English Campaign Crystal Mark for some of our patient publicity materials.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

SIGN continues to participate in international activities and it is hoped that SIGN's status as a Collaborating Centre for WHO will be confirmed in 2006.

- Four members of SIGN Executive attended the GIN conference in Lyon in December. The joint SIGN and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) presentation on the lung cancer work, given by the Programme Director and a NICE Collaborating Centre representative, was very well received and generated significant debate
- The Director has been appointed as an Executive member of the GIN Board for the next twelve months
- SIGN is part of a consortium of European guideline developers who have been awarded €2 million under the "ERA-NET Scheme" of the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities, contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002-2006). SIGN has received a significant allocation of funding for its contribution to this important project
- SIGN organised a training event in June 2005 for a group of clinicians from Ukraine interested in guideline development and other quality initiatives in healthcare
- The success of the asthma living guideline collaboration between SIGN and the British Thoracic Society (BTS) has led to international recognition for the British Guideline on the Management of Asthma. Interest in joining the collaboration has been expressed by Germany, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. The collaboration has now expanded to include the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand

- The Director participated in a WHO workshop on evidence based medicine in Oman in January and links have been made with guideline developers in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.
- The Quality and Information Director continued to participate in the work of the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation) working group, and to consider the implications for SIGN methodology.

PATIENT INVOLVEMENT

- A short life working group of SIGN Council was convened during 2005/6, chaired by Wendy Nganasurian, to refresh the way in which patient involvement is carried out at SIGN. A report from the group is available from the Director
- SIGN has been piloting the development of patient and carer versions of three guidelines (dementia, lung cancer and epilepsy in children). These have been reviewed by the Scottish Consumer Council and patient focus groups and will be published in December 2006.

IMPLEMENTATION

- An implementation group has been formed to identify initiatives to promote the widespread implementation of the five revised CHD guidelines, due to be launched in early 2007
- A positive independent review of the Osteoporosis Guideline Initiative (OGI), a collaboration between SIGN, the National Osteoporosis Society and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries was published in March. This made recommendations for further implementation initiatives.

INTERNAL ISSUES

This has been a challenging year for SIGN, with a number of issues affecting our ability to deliver the full planned programme of work. Contributing factors included:

- The move to new offices in Thistle Street was followed by a period of significant IT problems, leading to delays in the programme
- The effect on staff morale of the announcement of the relocation of NHS QIS to Glasgow
- The simultaneous revision of five coronary heart disease guidelines has created a number of scheduling issues, which has affected timescales for other guidelines in the programme
- The capacity issues identified during the course of the year which led to the cancellation of the 2006 new topic selection process.

FINANCE REPORT

SIGN remained within budget, with a surplus of £39,182. This is less than 5% of SIGN's total budget for the year, which included a non-recurring refund of £27,000 from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh for underspend during 2004/5. The underspend resulted largely from the delay in publication of two guidelines.

PLANS FOR 2006/7

The major priorities for SIGN in 2006/7 are to address the capacity issues within the guideline development programme and to develop our methodology for reviewing guidelines. SIGN will publish the suite of five CHD guidelines in early 2007 and publish guidelines on gastro-oesophageal cancer, bacterial UTI, bronchiolitis, autism spectrum disorders, hepatitis C, peripheral arterial disease and head and neck cancer. SIGN will commence work on reviewing four published guidelines. In addition SIGN will implement the recommendations of the Short Life Working Group on patient involvement.

CURRENT SIGN STAFF 2005/2006

Dr Sara Twaddle	Director of SIGN
Emma-Jane Harrington	Office Coordinator
Emma Cameron	Administrative Assistant
Magdalena Medon	Administrative Assistant

The Information Team

Robin Harbour	Quality and Information Director
Duncan Service	Senior Information Officer
Michele Hilton Boon	Information Officer
Juliet Brown	Information Officer
Joanna Welsh	Information Officer
Suzanne Wilson	Assistant Information Officer

The Guideline Development Team

Dr Safia Qureshi	Programme Director
Dr Farida Hamza-Mohamed	Programme Manager
Dr Roberta James	Programme Manager
Dr Moray Nairn	Programme Manager
Ailsa Stein	Programme Manager
Dr Lorna Thompson	Programme Manager
Gaynor Rattray	Senior Guideline Coordinator
Fiona Moncur	Guideline Coordinator
Karen Graham	Guideline Coordinator Public Involvement
Lesley Forsyth	Events Coordinator
Stuart Neville	Publications Designer

FORMER SIGN STAFF 2005/6

Jenni Brockie
Kelly Frost
Joanne Topalian
Joanna White
Dr Olivia Wu

SIGN COUNCIL

Chair: Professor Gordon D O Lowe	
Vice-Chair: Professor Chris Kelnar	<i>Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health</i>
Dr David Alexander	<i>BMA Scottish General Practice Committee</i>
Dr James Beattie	<i>Royal College of General Practitioners</i>
Mr Jonathan Best	<i>NHSScotland</i>
Dr Keith Brown	<i>Royal College of Psychiatrists</i>
Professor Ian Campbell	<i>Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh</i>
Professor Hilary Capell	<i>Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow</i>
Professor Robert Carachi	<i>Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow</i>
Dr Hugh Gilmour	<i>Royal College of Pathologists</i>
Ms Ann Marie Hawthorne	<i>Royal College of Nursing</i>
Mrs Rosemary Hill	<i>Scottish Health Council</i>
Dr Lesley Holdsworth	<i>Allied Health Professions</i>
Dr Grahame Howard	<i>Royal College of Radiologists</i>
Professor Derek Johnston	<i>British Psychological Society</i>
Dr John Kinsella	<i>Royal College of Anaesthetists</i>
Dr Harpreet Kohli	<i>NHS QIS</i>
Professor Jim McDonald	<i>Faculty of Dental Surgery</i>
Mrs Fiona McMillan	<i>Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain</i>
Dr Lesley Macdonald	<i>Faculty of Public Health Medicine</i>
Dr Tahir A Mahmood	<i>Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists</i>
Ms Anne Matthew	<i>Royal College of Midwives</i>
Miss Tracy Nairn	<i>Allied Health Professions</i>
Ms Wendy Nganasurian	<i>Lay Representative</i>
Mr Christopher Oliver	<i>Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh</i>
Professor Nigel Pitts	<i>Faculty of Dental Surgery</i>
Dr Bill Reith	<i>Academy of Medical Royal Colleges</i>
Dr Mairi Scott	<i>Royal College of General Practitioners</i>
Ms Ruth Stark	<i>British Association of Social Workers</i>
Dr David Steel	<i>NHS QIS</i>
Ms Helen Tyrrell	<i>Voluntary Health Scotland</i>
Dr Christine Walker	<i>Royal College of Radiologists</i>
Dr Bernice West	<i>Centre for Nursing Practice Development</i>
Dr Pete Wimpenny	<i>Centre for Nursing Practice Development</i>

FORMER SIGN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2005/6

Mr Douglas Harper	<i>Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh</i>
Dr Cameron Howie	<i>Royal College of Anaesthetists</i>
Dr Gawn McIlwaine	<i>Royal College of Ophthalmologists</i>
Professor Mike Pearson	<i>Royal College of Physicians of London</i>
Dr Stuart Roxburgh	<i>Academy of Medical Royal Colleges</i>
Ms Susan Watt	<i>Royal College of Nursing</i>

All SIGN staff and SIGN Council members complete an annual declaration of interests.



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www.sign.ac.uk