

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) Council Meeting
Wednesday 17 June 2026, 2-4pm (hybrid)

MINUTES

Present	
Professor Angela Timoney (Chair)	Chair
Dr James Morton (JMo)	Royal College of General Practitioners - Vice-Chair
Arlene Coulson (AC)	Royal College of Pharmacy
Caroline Rapu (CR)	Royal College of Nursing
Dr Johannessen, Ingolfur (IJ)	Royal College of Pathologists
Jacqueline Thompson (JT)	Royal College of Nursing
Dr Matthias Rohe (MR)	Early Career Professional
Professor Lesley Colvin (LC)	Royal College of Anaesthetists
David McCulloch (DM)	Royal College of Anaesthetists
Ms Amanda Gotch (AG)	Royal College of Midwives (<i>job share</i>)
Jill Fowlie (JF)	Royal College of General Practitioners
Dr Kevin McConville (KMcC)	Royal College of General Practitioners
Line Caes (LC)	British Psychological Society
Gareth Hill (GH)	Deputy for Dr Safia Qureshi
Debbie Provan (DP)	Scottish Federation of AHPs
Duncan Service (DS)	Evidence Manager, SIGN
Dr Roberta James (RJ)	SIGN Programme Lead
Iain Macleod (IM)	Public Partner (NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland)
Ro Pengelly (RP)	Public Partner (NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland)
Dr Wendy Maltinsky (WM)	British Psychological Society
Tom Lynch (TL)	Pharmaceutical Analyst, (Healthcare Improvement Scotland)
Dr Jan Stanier	Allied Health Professionals Federation Scotland Speech and Language Therapy
Observers	
Jay Gray (JG)	NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Paula O'Brian (PoB)	NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Omonuwa Iredia (OI)	Royal College of General Practitioners
Jane Baraclough (JB)	Royal College of General Practitioners
Mary Jennifer Anyika (MJA)	Royal College of General Practitioners
Anna Podlasek (APL)	Royal College of General Practitioners
Apologies	
Dr Safia Qureshi (SQ)	Director of Evidence, HIS
Dr Simon Watson (SW)	Medical Director, Healthcare Improvement Scotland

Martin Robertson (MR)	Public Partner, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Chipo Makiyi (CM)	Public Partner, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Charlie Duncan (CD)	British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)
Professor Julie Brittenden (JB)	Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh)

1.	Welcome and Apologies	
	Welcome from Chair and apologies as noted above.	
2.	Declaration of Interests	
	Chair reminded Council members to declare any interests relating to today's agenda and to complete the annual DOI form.	
3.	SIGN Council Business	
	Update from Senior Management Team Discuss and prioritise topics for two Trusted Voice position statements to be developed 2026/27 to invite volunteers to develop the Trusted Voice statements. Key topics discussed: misinformation and disinformation, health inequalities, and artificial intelligence. Strong support for misinformation as a priority. It was agreed that for all topics a narrow focus is required relevant to SIGN and its role in NHS Scotland. Agreement to shortlist and scope three topics before selecting two final priorities - (misinformation, AI, health inequalities). This will go back to SMT. Members who offered to volunteer for the short life working groups were Iain Macleod, Carrie Lunan, James Morton, Ro Pengelly, David McCulloch, Tom Lynch, Amanda Gotch, Roberta James. Discuss and agree on process for appointment of GDG chairs. Proposal to introduce a more formal recruitment and interview process. Emphasis on clarity of expectations and workload. Agreed as the approach going forward to recruit members for short-life working groups and develop clear GDG chair role descriptions. Discuss and agree on principle for endorsing TB Guideline. TB guideline identified as first potential example. Agreed in principle to proceed with endorsement approach. A Council subgroup will be established to review proposals for endorsement. Framework for collaborating with BHF.	Chair

	Framework was noted. Delay to the BHF guideline was noted.	
4.	Patient and Public Involvement	
	Update from Public Involvement Advisory Group activities and development. RP commended Karen Graham's work with PIAG. Strong emphasis on the value of lived experience. Challenges noted in recruiting and sustaining public involvement. Importance of rural representation highlighted.	RP
5.	Update from Evidence Directorate	
	The CEO of Healthcare Improvement Scotland, following discussion with SG at annual review and in conversation requested a system-wide review of Evidence functions. Aimed at better impact, integration, and efficiency, (not cost-cutting). Reminder that SQ previously presented to SIGN Council and will give an update at the September meeting.	GH
6.	Update on SMIIP	
	Focus on improving access to medicines, digital integration, and data use. Work underway to integrate health technology assessment (SMC advice) into guidelines and present in the Right Decision Support platform. (Presentation attached)	TL
7.	SIGN Executive Business	
	Update on the guideline development programme and progress with "35 in 5". Some progress but delays noted due to capacity constraints. Several publications expected over the summer. Antibiotic prophylaxis will be taken off hold. Table to be refreshed for clarity.	RJ

8.	Methodology	
	A review of the integration of health technology assessment advice into clinical guidelines was already presented by TL in Update on SMIIP (Item 5). Sustainability implications for SIGN 50 - Methodology group also considered how to integrate the sustainability principles in the Sustainability and climate principles for healthcare Trusted Voice. This work is ongoing and an update will be provided at a future meeting.	DS
9.	Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11 March 2026	
	Approved	
10.	Any Other Business?	
11.	Dates and Format of Future Meetings 2026	
	Wednesday 9 September	
	Wednesday 9 December	