

SCOTTISH PHYSICIANS' CLINICAL STANDARDS AND AUDIT COLLABORATION

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Since May 1999, the Scottish Royal Colleges of Physicians (the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (RCPE) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG)) have worked with the Scottish Physicians' Specialist Societies to coordinate clinical audit and standard setting activities in adult hospital medicine through their Bicollegiate Physicians' Committee for Clinical Standards and Audit. This collaborative venture aims:

- to provide an information network for physicians and other health care professionals involved in clinical audit and standard setting in Scotland;
- to liaise with other relevant organisations; and
- to develop clinical audit standards for use in adult hospital medicine in Scotland.

To date, these have been developed in six key areas:

1. general medicine
2. geriatric medicine
3. cardiovascular medicine
4. respiratory medicine
5. stroke
6. diabetes

This selection was made on the following criteria:

- high volume hospital medical services (acute and out-patient) led by hospital physicians;
- health service priorities in Scotland (coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer (of which lung cancer is that most frequently presenting to hospital physicians));
- development of SIGN and other UK evidence- and experience-based clinical guidelines by Royal Colleges of Physicians, Physicians' Specialist Societies and NHS-related bodies; and
- Scottish/UK experience in clinical audit.

These pilot clinical audit standards have been developed by the Scottish Physicians' Joint Specialty Groups in each of the six key areas, comprising representatives of RCPE, RCPSG, relevant Scottish Physicians' Specialist Societies, the Royal College of General Practitioners (Scotland) and the Faculty of Public Health Medicine (Scotland). An application for funding of national medical audits using selected standards from this programme is currently in preparation; meanwhile, their evaluation in local medical

audits is encouraged.

The proposed standards have been subjected to wide peer review, and have been approved by RCPE and RCPSG Councils. However, we would welcome the views of Fellows and Collegiate Members on particular draft standards, or on the programme more generally. The standards are posted on the internet and can be accessed through either of the Scottish Physicians' College websites:*

- www.rcpe.ac.uk (under clinical audit standards on the Education and Standards pages)
- www.rcpsglasg.ac.uk/audit.html

Go on, get on the internet and let us have your views on the work of this important and evolving initiative!

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BICOLLEGIATE PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE FOR CLINICAL STANDARDS AND AUDIT.

Professor Gordon Lowe	RCPE (Chairman)
Dr Mike Watson	RCPE
Dr Margaret Roberts	RCPSG
Dr Robert Monie	RCPSG
Professor David Stott	Scottish Stroke Collaboration
Dr John Irving	Scottish Cardiac Society
Dr David Matthews	Diabetes UK (Scotland)
Dr Graham Leese	Scottish Society of Physicians
Dr Malcolm Campbell	RCGP (Scotland)
Dr Margaret Kenicer	Faculty of Public Health Medicine
Mrs Christina Pottinger	Secretariat RCPE
Mrs Margaret Farquhar	Secretariat RCPE

* If you would like the opportunity to comment but do not have internet access, please contact:
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