

# Improving Services for People with Chronic Pain

Update by Dr Steve Gilbert, National Lead Clinician for Chronic Pain  
August 2011

Firstly, as many of you will already know, Pete Mackenzie sadly passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> July. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for the tireless work he put into the Lead Clinician's post as well as his dedication to services in Glasgow, his patients and education. I had the privilege of working with him in our house jobs – many years ago, and when I caught up with him on his return from Adelaide, he still had the same enthusiasm, determination and sense of humour. I had been so encouraged to see him happy, if a bit tired, at his retirement party, just a couple of months ago.

Our thoughts are with Diane and his children.

## Snapshot of Pain Services in Scotland

You might have received a request for information on your service. Sorry about the extra work, but I thought it would be very useful to have an update on the GRIPS report. Thank you very much to those of you who have already replied and reminders to those of you who haven't. I think we'll be able to provide a fairly detailed update of progress since 2007, by the end of August.

## Visits to Pain Services

I've asked all the NHS board areas if they'd like me to visit, to get a clearer picture of local services and to meet with management teams. So far I have visits pending for Highland, Ayrshire, Borders and Dumfries & Galloway. I have also arranged to visit the Bath Pain Centre later this month.

## Briefing for the meeting of the Regional Planning Chief Executives' Subgroup (RPCE) – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Together with Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the Scottish Government, Dr Mike Winter, Medical Director of National Services Directorate (NSD) submitted a briefing paper on progress in implementing the GRIPS report to the RPCE. This was well received and I have been invited to present a more detailed business case to the next meeting at the end of September.

## SIGN Guideline

A preliminary meeting with SIGN took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and it was proposed that the remit should be **Management of non-malignant chronic pain in primary care**. A full guidelines group meeting is scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> August when this remit will be discussed, key questions will be considered and following this, there will be wider consultation. There has also been an initial meeting in England to propose a NICE guideline on Chronic Pain Management.

## Chronic Pain Steering Group

The next Chronic Pain Steering Group meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> August after which the previous minutes will be available on the website. The main actions from the May meeting were as above and also to invite representatives for paediatric and older people's pain management, a pharmacist and the ABPI. We look forward to welcoming the new group members at the next meeting.

## Establishment of Education Subgroup

The first meeting of the Education subgroup was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at the end of a hectic week at the British Pain Society ASM. Martin Johnson, Pain Champion for the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) was able to attend as well as multidisciplinary representatives from around Scotland. We agreed that the priorities were to improve pain management knowledge in primary care, for the public and in the longer term for medical

schools. The minutes will be on the chronic pain website after the next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## Information and Measurement Subgroup

We're due to have the first meeting of this group on 14<sup>th</sup> September. In preparation I have been in touch with Stephen Ward, the Audit Lead of the British Pain Society, and Dr Foster Research Ltd who are conducting The National Audit of Pain in England.

## Research Subgroup

After the success of the launch of the Scottish Pain Research Community (SPaRC) earlier this year, plans are already being made for an event in 2012. The presentations from this year's meeting can be found on the chronic pain website.

## Pain Association Scotland Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October

Pain Association Scotland have organised a day meeting on general management of chronic pain, at which Nicola Sturgeon is the key note speaker. Places are limited and at the invitation of Pain Association Scotland.

## National Pain Summit

The Chronic Pain Policy Commission has organised a National Pain Summit on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. At present this is focussed on services in England, but I am hoping to stimulate discussion on ourselves, Wales and Northern Ireland as well.

## Chronic Pain Website

(<http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/pain.aspx>)



The website has been updated so that there is some information from all NHS board areas. I have asked each board to identify a website co-ordinator and I am planning to put together a small working group to organise the website content.

I am planning to put more regular updates on the website and have started a blog in the "discussions" section.

So it's been pretty busy. Recent events have reinforced my optimism that we may be on the brink of making some significant progress.

Please get in touch with me with any suggestions, concerns, complaints or compliments.

All the best

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