

22nd November 2011

Dear Colleague

As you will be aware, the Scottish Public Health Network was asked by the Directors of Public Health in Scotland to undertake a partial update of the original Scottish Needs Assessment Programme healthcare needs assessment of type 2 diabetes. Specifically the Scottish Public Health Network update was asked to focus on two areas which had not been considered by the original SNAP assessment: preventive interventions and screening for type 2 diabetes.

The updated work from Scottish Public Health Network has now been completed and I am pleased to provide the web link to the four documents which make up the healthcare needs assessment:

- Part A: Project Group Conclusions on Screening and Prevention and Recommendations;
- Part B: Research review – Screening for and prevention of type 2 diabetes;
- Part C: Services for people with type 2 diabetes in Scotland; and
- Part D: Cost-effectiveness and budget impact analysis of screening for type 2 diabetes.

http://www.scotphn.net/projects/previous_projects/type_2_diabetes_needs_assessment

In relation to screening for type 2 diabetes, the assessment concludes that there is a high degree of variability in approaches to screening across Scotland and in the availability of preventative interventions. Whilst the evidence is not sufficient to recommend a specific screening programme, there is evidence to support a more structured approach to screening or case-finding within the context of a vascular risk management programme. This is in line with UK Screening Committee Policy.

In presenting this work, to the NHS in Scotland, the Scottish Directors of Public Health are aware that producing a healthcare need assessment is only part of the process of change and that further evidence is often needed to guide implementation. The Scottish Directors of Public Health have therefore requested that Scottish Public Health Network undertake two areas of additional work.

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These are:

- to pilot the approach recommended within the context of a vascular risk management programme; and
- to assess the true, replacement cost of using the recommended approach, compared with existing approaches, as an additional guide towards identifying the affordability of introducing the approach into Health Boards.

To this end, Scottish Public Health Network is already in discussion with one of the Keep Well programmes which is now being mainstreamed in Scotland to provide a test-bed for what is – ultimately – an important “invest to save” area for health and health care in Scotland and to help identify the over 48,800 people (0.9% of the Scottish population, Scottish Public Health Observatory estimate) who have undiagnosed diabetes and help improve the overall quality of care for people who have type 2 diabetes.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Professor Helen Colhoun from the University of Dundee who led this work and the entire expert group who completed this assessment.

With kindest regards



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