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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Dear Colleague

## TRANSCATHETER AORTIC VALVE IMPLANTATION – REFERRALS TO NATIONAL TAVI SERVICE

You will be aware of the establishment of the National TAVI Service at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE) in late 2012.

We are attempting to understand variation in referral patterns across Scotland. This work has been led by Dr Barry Vallance, Consultant Cardiologist and Chair of the National Planning Forum's TAVI Clinical Oversight Group (TCOG).

TCOG has noted a large discrepancy in the number of cases being referred to the National TAVI Service by NHS Boards. Of particular interest is that the number of TAVI procedures per annum would be substantially higher than at present, if all Boards had the same referral rate per head of their population as the highest referring Boards. The concern is that the current rate of TAVI procedures per million population in Scotland, is less than in other parts of the UK and Europe, and we need to establish whether more needs to be done to identify people who may be suitable for TAVI.

I am following up on Dr Vallance's correspondence to Medical Directors from February this year, and would ask you to ensure that those medical professionals in your Board who have the opportunity to refer people to the TAVI service are fully aware of the availability of TAVI as a treatment option for patients with severe aortic stenosis, particularly those who are unsuitable for conventional open heart surgery. In this regard, I would invite you to remind clinicians in Primary Care and the consultant community of General Physicians, Geriatricians and Cardiologists, that the TAVI service is up and running at the RIE and available for patients with this condition.

**From the Acting Chief Medical  
Officer  
Dr Aileen Keel CBE**

### Enquiries to:

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### Addresses

For action  
Medical Directors, NHS Boards

For information  
Directors of Public Health, NHS  
Boards  
Chairs, NHS Boards  
Chief Executives, NHS Boards

I would therefore be grateful if you could cascade this message as appropriate to relevant clinicians within your NHS Boards and let me know when this has been done by replying to [christopher.roberts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.roberts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) by 23 September 2014.

I have enclosed a copy of the [TAVI referral pathway/protocol for information](#).

Yours sincerely

*Aileen Keel*

**DR AILEEN KEEL CBE**