



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

HEALTH BOARD ALLOCATIONS FOR 2002-2003: APPLICATION OF FUNDING EARMARKED TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF *THE RIGHT MEDICINE – A STRATEGY FOR PHARMACEUTICAL CARE IN SCOTLAND*

Summary

1. This circular sets out the main purposes for which the funding earmarked to support implementation of *The Right Medicine – A Strategy for Pharmaceutical Care in Scotland* may be used.

Background

2. *The Right Medicine - A Strategy for Pharmaceutical Care in Scotland* was published on 4 February. It aims to help people to get the maximum benefit from their medicines. It outlines the way in which pharmacists and the Scottish Executive will work with stakeholders to: improve public health; provide better access to care; deliver better quality services for people; and develop the pharmaceutical profession.
3. The outcome of the recent generic drugs discount survey (announced in NHS Circular PCA(P)(2001)5) will deliver significant reductions in the FHS Drugs Bill. Ministers have agreed that in 2002-2003 £4m of these savings should be spent by NHS Boards to support implementation of *The Right Medicine- A Strategy for Pharmaceutical Care in Scotland* (paragraph 17 and Annex C of the *Revenue Resource Allocation letter for 2002-3* issued on 7 February refers).
4. The £4m will enable NHS Boards to set in motion a number of early initiatives in their areas in support of the strategy. The areas of the strategy where we believe most effective use of funding can be made are:

13 February 2002

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

For information

Chief Executive, CSA
Directors of Public Health
Medical Directors, NHS Trusts
Scottish Specialists in Pharmaceutical
Public Health
Trust Chief Pharmacists
Directors of Nursing Services
LHCCs
Local Health Councils
Directors of Social Work

Enquiries on:

Professional issues to

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Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
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Primary Care or financial aspects to:

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Primary Care Division
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EH1 3DG

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Fax: 0131-244 2621
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- implementation for the Model Schemes for Pharmaceutical Care;
 - reviewing arrangements for out of hours services;
 - training in antibiotic prescribing for hospital and community pharmacists;
 - preparation for a 'brown bag' scheme as part of an awareness campaign about the safe disposal of medicines;
 - creation of LHCC locality groups;
 - pharmacy led pre-admission clinics and discharge planning initiatives;
 - pump priming projects within the secondary sector to encourage self medication and improve arrangements for medication on discharge (eg self medication boxes for in-patients and the provision of 28 days' supply of medication on discharge);
 - development of existing locally contracted services including those for drug misusers;
 - improving hospital and community pharmacy premises to enhance patient care. A template for scheme design in community pharmacy is being developed with the Scottish General Pharmaceutical Council and further information will be provided in due course; and
 - training for pharmacy technicians.
5. Particular initiatives within the scope of the strategy which are targeted at specific local needs, but outwith the areas outlined above, may also be put forward for consideration.
6. In drawing up your plans, the views of stakeholders (including LHCCs and local representative bodies of community pharmacists) should be taken into account.
- 7. Action**
8. The contents of this Circular should be brought to the attention of LHCCs and Area Pharmaceutical Committees.
9. To enable us to oversee the implementation of the strategy we would be grateful if you would let James White have your plans for spending your allocation by Friday, 5 April (telephone number: 0131-244-3433, e-mail James.White@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

GODFREY ROBSON
Director of Service Policy & Planning