

National Services Division

A guide to Scotland's national
specialist commissioner.



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National Services Division (NSD), part of National Services Scotland, facilitates collaboration between NHS Boards and service users to plan and deliver equitable and quality assured programmes of care for the NHS in Scotland. We take a ‘once for Scotland’ approach to services that are very specialist as well as nine national screening programmes, national and strategic networks and national planning. Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Scotland and ensure equitable access for the Scottish population.

We work jointly with Scottish Government and NHSScotland in a wide variety of ways to support the delivery of services across a diverse range of conditions.

No matter how rare the condition, wherever the location or how challenging the circumstance, we strive to ensure patients across Scotland have equitable, reliable and consistent access to high-quality care.

This booklet provides a summary of our services which we hope you find informative.

Susi Buchanan
Director, National Services Division
National Services Scotland

What guides us?

Our mission is to be a valued and trusted partner for planning, commissioning and coordinating high quality person centred care.

For over 20 years, National Services Division has commissioned specialist health services. These ensure that patients who need access to treatment or investigation of a very specialist nature have access to the highest possible standards of care.

We are a diverse team of programme management and commissioning experts including clinical and public health, all working within the governance of NSS Scotland. Our ongoing commitment to delivering against the 'once for Scotland' ambition is recognised by Scottish Government and NHSScotland Boards, entrusting us with a growing role in improving Scotland's health.

Guiding principles:

We take a national approach: We aim to reduce unnecessary variation and duplication across Scotland, and our national approach helps drive a consistent quality of care.

We have a strong clinical focus: We work to implement the principles of Realistic Medicine. This ensures that anyone receiving care is put at the centre of all decisions relating to the provision of their care.

We take a joined-up approach: Teaming up with our stakeholders, listening to our patients and working with third party experts, we build relationships and insights to understand needs.

We are working to assure equity of services for all: Supporting service providers to deliver the same level of quality and consistency of care tailored to individual needs, regardless of location of circumstances.

We offer value for money: Taking a national approach allows us to improve efficiency and offer a reliable consistent service, whilst also ensuring that available funding is used equitably.

Specialist Services for Rare Conditions

Specialist services provide care to patients who have highly specialised needs, or those with a very rare condition. The specialist teams ensure access to, and support the highest possible standards of care within available resources.

National Services Division commissions specialist services on behalf of NHSS Boards and Scottish Government. This includes services for rare diseases or complex conditions – such as specialist services for a range of paediatric conditions, the management of spinal injuries, cochlear implantation, and solid organ and stem cell transplants.

We work to ensure access to services that meet and measure against appropriate quality standards with transparent care pathways and with clinical outcomes benchmarked against similar services whenever possible.

Commissioning involves working with the service provider to set a service specification, agree the activity profile, staffing, and resources required whilst being assured in terms of monitoring both the clinical outcomes and patient experience within a service; usually through the production and publication of an annual performance report for the service.



Designated Specialist Services

Service and Provider Board(s)

Transplant

Advanced Heart Failure & Heart Transplant - Golden Jubilee National Hospital

Islet Cell Transplantation - NHS Lothian

Liver Transplantation - NHS Lothian

Pancreatic Transplantation - NHS Lothian

Renal Transplantation: Paediatric - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Renal Transplantation: Adult - NHS Lothian & NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant: Adult - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

CAR-T Cell Therapy: Adult – NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant: Paediatric - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Mental Health

Advanced Interventions - NHS Tayside

Child Inpatient Psychiatry - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Mental Health Service for Deaf People - NHS Lothian

General Adult

Brachial Plexus - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Burns Hub Adult & Paediatrics – NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Chronic Pain Management - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Cochlear Implantation: Adult & Paediatrics - NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Complex Mesh Surgical Service – NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Deep Brain Stimulation - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Hyperbaric Medicine - NHS Grampian

Inherited Metabolic Disorders Adult & Paediatrics - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Photobiology - NHS Tayside

Specialist Prosthetics - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Lothian

Spinal Injuries - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Stereotactic Radiosurgery - NHS Lothian

Supra-renal and thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms - NHS Lothian

Designated Specialist Services (continued)

General Paediatric

Burns Hub Adult & Paediatrics – NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Chest Wall Deformity - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Cleft Lip & Palate - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Cochlear Implantation: Adult & Paediatrics - NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Complex Airways Disorder - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Craniofacial Surgery – NHS Greater Glasgow Clyde

Ear and Atresia Reconstruction: Adult & Children - NHS Lothian

Epilepsy Surgery - NHS Lothian

Extra Corporeal Life Support - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Inherited Metabolic Disorders Adult & Paediatrics - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Interventional Fetal Therapy - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Obstetric Brachial Plexus - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Paediatric Intensive Care - NHS Lothian and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Spine Deformity Service - NHS Lothian

Transcranial Doppler and MRI Scanning - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Cancer

Cervical Training School - NHS Lothian

Hydatidiform Mole - NHS Tayside

Lutathera for Neuroendocrine Tumours - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Molecular Radiotherapy: Paediatric - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Ophthalmic Oncology - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Cardiac & Respiratory

Adult Congenital Heart Disease - Golden Jubilee National Hospital

Adult Cystic Fibrosis - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lothian and NHS Grampian

Adult ECMO – NHS Grampian

Congenital Heart Disease: Paediatric - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Percutaneous mitral valve & related interventions - NHS Lothian

Pulmonary Vascular Hypertension - Golden Jubilee National Hospital

Designated Specialist Services (continued)

Diagnostic, Genetic & Specialist Laboratories

Genetic & Molecular Pathology Laboratories - NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside

Histopathology EQA Scheme - NHS Tayside

Microbiology Reference and Specialist Laboratories - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lothian & NHS Highland

Pre implantation Genetic Diagnosis - NHS Lothian & NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Trace Element & Micronutrient Diagnostic Laboratory - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Therapeutic Drug Monitoring - NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde



Financial Risk Share Arrangements

Patients with very rare conditions can be assured that NHSS will cover the costs of their treatment or care. National Services Division manages a number of national financial risk sharing arrangements on behalf of NHSS Boards. These allow NHSS to pool funding across the country, so that Boards can share the financial impact of any unpredictable expenditure, in respect of the treatment, for very rare conditions that may require a high cost intervention.

Every NHSS Board makes a contribution to cover the cost of access to an agreed list of specialist treatments. NSD oversees the following risk sharing arrangements:

- **Forensic medium secure care for patients with learning disabilities.** This meets the costs associated with the care and treatment for patients with learning disabilities who need medium secure care.
- **Specialised services not available in Scotland.** This risk sharing scheme helps meet the costs of highly specialised patient treatment outside of Scotland (Mainly in NHS England) on behalf of NHSS Boards from pooled funds.
- Funding for a defined lists of **high-cost medicines for rare or very rare diseases.**
 - Inherited Haemostatic Disorders
 - Ultra Orphan Medicines
 - Inherited Metabolic Disorders
 - CAR-T therapies¹
 - Lutetium Lu 177 dotatate for the treatment of neo-endocrine tumours

This investment enables NHSS to take a national approach to meet the costs of selected very high cost therapies. The range covered by these arrangements is reviewed by NHSS Boards annually. Without these schemes an individual Health Board could face significant financial risk.

¹ Only SMC approved products and indications

Population Screening

Screening programmes detect early signs of disease in the population and offer a reliable pathway to referral for diagnostic testing and further treatment. Screening in itself is not indicative of the presence of disease. So, in order for a screening programme to be considered for national coordination, it must be acceptably accurate and designed to test for a disease where earlier detection and intervention would be of benefit to the patient and where the screening test does not cause unacceptable harm.

Working with NHSS Boards, we co-ordinate Scotland's eight national population screening programmes:

- Bowel screening*
- Breast screening*
- Cervical screening
- Diabetic retinopathy screening
- Pregnancy screening*
- Newborn blood spot screening*
- Universal newborn hearing screening
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening

Co-ordination means we bring together the people who commission screening in NHSS Boards, Public Health experts, programme clinicians, managers and staff, IT and communication experts, and many others to discuss and agree protocols and pathways. As the programme helps to continuously improve services, good risk and adverse event management are also taken into account.

**National Services Division also commissions some elements of each of the breast and bowel screening programmes, as well as the laboratories for the pregnancy and newborn bloodspot screening programmes.*

Screening policy is set by the Scottish Government Health Directorates on the advice of the UK National Screening Committee and other appropriate bodies.

National Networks

From clinicians to third sector representatives, policy makers to programme managers, National Networks each bring together the bespoke expertise to design care, operating on a national level, and navigating professional and organisational boundaries to support Scottish Government policy.

Networks make sure that patients and their families have equitable access to the highest standards of care, regardless of where they live in Scotland.

Here is a summary of the various types of networks supported by NSD:

- **Clinical networks** – In the main, these support service improvements for patients with a rare condition e.g. inherited metabolic disorders.
- **Diagnostic networks** – These networks focus on linking laboratory and clinical services with users, seeking to ensure access to the right test at the right time.
- **Strategic networks** – Strategic networks are commissioned when nationally focused, large major change across whole pathways of care are required e.g. major trauma, neonatal, veterans, police care, or people in custody or in prison.

The same core elements apply equally to all networks, which are:

- Care pathway / service improvement and planning – mapping services across Scotland and designing the right models of care
- Education to build capacity and capability in specialist care – for both professionals and carers
- Collecting, analysing and reporting data to measure and improve quality of care
- Communicating and engaging with stakeholders – ensuring that there is clear understanding and involvement in shaping and redesign of services to meet patient and carer needs.

National Networks

Clinical

Care of Burns in Scotland (COBIS)
Children and Young People's Allergy Network (CYANS)
Children with Exceptional Healthcare Needs (CEN)
Cleftcare Scotland (CCS)
Hearing Impairment Network for Children and Young People (HINCYP)
Inherited Metabolic Disorders Scotland (IMD)
National Gender Identity Clinical Network Scotland (NGICNS)
Network for Inherited Cardiac Conditions Scotland (NICCS) **
Paediatric Audiology Network (PAN)
Paediatric End of Life Care Network (PELiCaN)
Perinatal Mental Health Network (PMHN)
Phototherapy Network (Photonet)
Scottish Acquired Brain Injury Network (SABIN)
Scottish Differences in Sex Development (SDSD)
Scottish Inherited Bleeding Disorders Network (SIBDN)
Scottish Muscle Network (SMN)
Scottish Obstetric Cardiology Network (SOCN)
Scottish Paediatric and Adult Haemoglobinopathies Network (SPAH)
Scottish Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology Network (SPARN)
Scottish Paediatric and Adolescent Infection and Immunology Network (SPAIIIN)
Scottish Paediatric Endocrine Group (SPEG)
Scottish Paediatric Epilepsy Network (SPEN)
Scottish Paediatric Renal and Urology Network (SPRUN)
Surgical Congenital Anomalies Network Scotland (SCANS)
Scottish Systemic Vasculitis Network (SSVN)
Visual Impairment Network for Children and Young People (VINCYP)

** formerly Familial Arrhythmia Network (FANS)

Cancer

Scottish Sarcoma Network (SSN)
HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancers (SHPBN)
Scottish Adult Neuro-Oncology Network (SANON)
(National Cancer Networks hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde)

Diagnostic

Haematology and Transfusion Scotland Network (HaTS)
Scottish Clinical Biochemistry Network (SCBN)
Scottish Microbiology and Virology Network (SMVN)
Scottish Clinical Imaging Network (SCIN)
Scottish Pathology Network (SPAN)

Strategic Networks

Strategic networks support the planning, finance and improvement of service change.

Scottish Trauma Network (STN)
National Police Care Network
The National Prison Care Network
Scottish Veterans Care Network
Scottish Perinatal Network



National Planning

National Planning is an NHSScotland wide agenda, offering a new governance approach to decision making around the planning of key NHS clinical (and sometimes non-clinical) services which incorporates finance, workforce, digital and infrastructure issues. It looks at how to deliver quality and consistency across a wide range of services.

Providing support to the whole National Planning process, NSD's National Planning Team (NPT) carries out the following functions:

- providing the secretariat for the National Planning Board and its constituent groups
- providing expertise to support the decision-making process – this spans planning, public health, data intelligence, evidence and economics
- leading and delivering on service reviews, service planning and commissions for horizon scans.

More broadly, National Planning itself has four key functions, which can be summarised as follows:

Commissions – commissioning of portfolio groups to look at developing a longer-term view on what areas may need planning in the future e.g. what will NHSScotland need to plan now for the coming 5-10 years e.g. for heart disease, cancer, stroke, etc.

Reviews – a review of existing NHS services where regional and local plans highlight the potential for more effective service planning at a national level e.g. robotic assisted surgery, interventional radiology.

Service Planning – following on from reviews or exploration through horizon scanning, the National Planning Team may support in helping form specific service planning groups to plan for the future model or service provision e.g. thrombectomy services or specialist cardiac procedures.

Enablers – a key function of the National Planning Board is to ensure join up with other key Boards that are planning for the future and ensuring that we work in partnership – connection to the finance framework, infrastructure board, digital board, workforce board.



For more information on any of the services in this booklet or to find out more about National Services Division please visit

[Specialist healthcare | National Services Scotland \(nhs.scot\)](#).

You can also email us at nss.nsd-enquiries@nhs.scot

Web: [Welcome to National Services Scotland nhs.scot](#)

Twitter: [@NHSNSS](#)

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