



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

**FOR
REFERENCE ONLY**

Dear Colleague

**COMMISSIONING CANCER SERVICES IN SCOTLAND:
PRIMARY AND PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES: JANUARY
1997**

Summary

1. The report "Commissioning Cancer Services in Scotland: Primary and Palliative Care Services" to the Chief Medical Officer from the Commissioning Cancer Services Sub-Committee of the Scottish Cancer Co-ordinating and Advisory Committee was issued for consultation in November 1996. The responses have since been considered by the sub-committee and have been taken into account in the preparing the revised report which is enclosed.
2. In general the report was warmly welcomed. Comments were received from a wide range of health service, professional and voluntary bodies involved in the care of patients with cancer, whose contributions provided an invaluable additional dimension to this final report, dated January 1997.

Action

1. Health Boards and Trusts are asked to consider the general principles and in particular the Action Points set out in this report against the background of the original framework of objectives and milestones for the reconfiguration of cancer services set out in NHS MEL(1996)54.
2. In this context purchasers should draw up plans taking on board the specific Action Points required to address the need to integrate primary and palliative care services within the overall framework for the provision of cancer services.
3. Successful implementation of the report's action points depends on effective multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and inter-agency team working. Particular emphasis is placed on the need for rapid and effective communications between and among all care sectors and at all levels of care, including, importantly, communications with patients and their relatives/carers.

COMMON SERVICES AGENCY	
RECEIVED 27 MAR 1997	
FILE No	
REFERRED TO	ACTION TAKEN
As 27/3.	

**NHS
MEL(1997)17**

NHS Management Executive
St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

27 March 1997

Addressees:

For action:

General Managers
Health Boards

Chief Executives
NHS Trusts

For information:

General Manager
Common Services Agency

General Manager
State Hospitals Board for Scotland

General Manager
Health Education Board for
Scotland

Executive Director
SCPMDE

Department of Health
Richmond House
LONDON

Professional Bodies/
Other organisations - see Annex

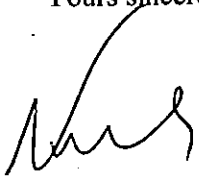
Enquiries to:

Mrs E Porterfield
Health Gain Division
NHS Management Executive
Room 161
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DE
Telephone: 0131.244.2352
Fax: 0131.244.2683
Requests for copies:
Room 129
St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Telephone: 0131.244.2346

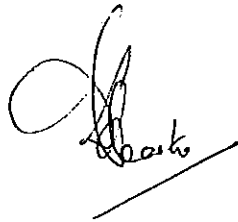
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Price

This letter and attachments have also been sent for information to the professional organisations and other bodies listed in Annex A.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Woods', written in a cursive style.

KEVIN WOODS
Director of Purchasing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir David Carter', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

SIR DAVID CARTER
Chief Medical Officer