Web-based adjuncts to guideline dissemination
Novel interventions from the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

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SIGN

• Set up in 1993 as a joint initiative of Medical Royal Colleges and professional organisations, now part of NHSScotland but retains editorial independence

• Around 20 guideline development groups at any one time, involving around 350 healthcare professionals and lay representatives

• Website www.sign.ac.uk attracts around 1.8 million hits per month

• In 2009 SIGN Council formed a subgroup to consider & support the needs of doctors & dentists in training
Postgraduate Medical Training

- UK Foundation Programme – 2 years
- Specialty training, competitive entry, 3-8 years after Foundation Programme
- Involves requirement to develop understanding of clinical governance and undertake clinical audit
- SIGN guidelines offer the basis for clinical audit
- Needs of SIGN + potential of doctors and dentists in training + their requirement for audit equals....
A win – win situation
Pilot work

- Doctors & dentists in training group members:
  - selected suitable extant guidelines
  - drafted user friendly proformas
  - ran small pilots
  - modified proformas in light of feedback
- The group also developed generic guidance on audit methodology to be included on the SIGN website, along with audit proformas
Pilot work

• First clinical areas:
  • VTE
  • non pharmacological treatment of depression
  • head injury
  • dental caries
  • hip fracture
  • diabetes
110 Early management of adult patients with a head injury

Quick Reference Guide

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SIGN

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network
Part of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

NHS
Quality Improvement Scotland

COPIES OF ALL SIGN GUIDELINES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.SIGN.AC.UK
Head injury preliminary results

• Results from first 35 users shows variable compliance with individual elements, ranging from 43% for ‘fulfils safe discharge criteria’ to 80% for ‘patient had their Glasgow Coma Score assessed at some stage’

• May reflect the issue of retrospective case note review or practice which requires further investigation

• Useful information for both junior doctors and SIGN
Further work

• SIGN are currently developing the facility for uploading audits to facilitate feedback on use of guidelines

• Simple, downloadable audit forms will accompany all new guideline publications in the future
Feedback from pilot work

• ‘This handy tool really helped me to overcome the fear and mystery of clinical audit’
• ‘I thought the form was easy to use and self explanatory’
• ‘informed practice and points that need to be improved upon’
Summary Key Points

• Doctors & dentists in training group have developed a series of simple, reproducible audit forms and checklists, pertaining to key recommendations.

• Audit provides a means of awareness raising, dissemination and implementation as well as raising standards.

• Use of internet for dissemination and feedback/data gathering is novel for SIGN and will help to answer questions around ‘what impact do clinical guidelines have?’
Thank you