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Prioritising Implementation Support for SIGN Guidelines

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Background: SIGN has long been known for producing high quality evidence based clinical guidelines for the NHS in Scotland. SIGN is now developing systems to allow it to take a proactive and multifaceted approach to supporting implementation of its guidelines in order to drive improvements in the quality of NHS services.

Purpose & Methods: SIGN implementation support falls into 4 categories:

- Improved processes:
 - Robust dissemination process
 - More interactive website

- Awareness raising & Education:
 - Clinical champions for guidelines
 - Awareness raising activities
 - Patients as champions for change
 - Developing educational tools

- Networking:
 - Linking with existing networks and projects
 - Annual implementation conference and regular meetings with NHS Boards
 - Field support team to provide implementation advice

- Implementation support resources:
 - Resource implications calculator
 - Algorithms & Care Pathways
 - Data sets
 - Electronic decision support tools

In order to prioritise the range of implementation support activities, a survey of over 1,000 NHS Scotland staff has been performed. This survey is aimed at clinical staff from every discipline and profession, asking them for feedback on what they would find useful.