**Forthcoming Events**

Are you affected by cardiac disease?

**Integrated Congenital Cardiac Care in Scotland—A New Approach**

**Patient Events**

**Glasgow** 7th May, 6-8pm
Teachers Building St Enoch's square (Videoconferencing available)

**Edinburgh** 14th May, 6-8pm
Holiday Inn, Corstorphine Road

**Aberdeen** 21st May, 6-8pm
Jurys Inn, Union Street

Have your say in helping to shape the future of congenital cardiac care in Scotland. We need your input to shape a structure that meets the needs of patients, their families and carers.

The events are being organised to look at how services work together to improve standards of care, develop a patient charter and implement a shared care model - from local GPs through to hospital specialists.

All events will have food and refreshments available on arrival.

To register for any of these events please fill in our online form [http://bit.ly/1Hk3ymT](http://bit.ly/1Hk3ymT)

If you have any queries please email NSS.SCCN@NHS.Net or phone 0131 275 7532

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**Recent Events**

**SCCN Paediatric Event**

2nd April 2015

The Paediatric event held in the Teachers’ building in Glasgow was extremely well received. There was an overwhelming demand for places this year so we hope you were successful at getting a place.

There were some very interesting presentations on the topics of Screening for Congenital Heart Disease, Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) and Prematurity, Inherited Heart Disease in Children and Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS).

We would like to say thanks to all the speakers who gave their time and shared their knowledge with so many. There is also special thanks to Mohammed Walayat who was pivotal in persuading so many colleagues to speak and attend the event.

As part of the new structure we'll need to consider how we organise and deliver such events in the future and we'll need to review the feedback from the day.

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“Excellent day, very informative”

“Enjoyable day. Karen Mcleods lecture Inherited abnormalities of heart rhythm; detection & treatment was absolutely fascinating!”

“Good day of valuable information”

“Very interesting to hear about HLHS programme particularly home monitoring, very relevant information for this audience. PDA info also interesting”
The Scottish Congenital Cardiac Network Successfully Completes its Two-Year Term

**Background**

In November 2012, the National Specialist Services Committee (NSSC) considered a proposal for a congenital cardiac national managed clinical network (NMCN). Rationale for this proposal included the UK review of paediatric cardiac services, the resultant Safe and Sustainable Action plan, as well as ongoing work on standards for adult congenital cardiac services. The Scottish Congenital Cardiac Network (SCCN) was therefore established in April 2013 for an initial two-year period.

**Highlights**

As that two-year designation period draws to a close, the network has several key achievements, of which it can rightly be proud, including:

- Establishing national networking across congenital cardiac services
- Establishing an SCCN paediatric nursing working group
- Strengthening of SACCS’ links with local hospital adult congenital heart disease services in a variety of NHS Board areas
- Support for PCS’ paediatric hospital outreach clinics
- Support for an inaugural transition event, including capture and analysis of patient and carer feedback
- An annual paediatric conference for NHS Scotland staff involved in the care of children with congenital cardiac disease

SCCN has also commenced work on several key strategic pieces of work, including:

- The Congenital Heart Disease Patients’ Charter
- Scottish standards for the care of Congenital Heart Disease patients
- Implementing the shared-care model, especially formalising links between extant services
- Scoping the needs of the cardiac child and family
- Engaging with patients and carers toward service improvement.

**Review**

SCCN submitted its final report to NSSC in February 2015, highlighting its successes and identifying important work in progress. In preparing this review, SCCN received over forty letters and emails indicating support and recognition that there was still worthwhile work to be undertaken. NHS professionals from a variety of backgrounds made it clear that local NHS Boards support quality improvement of congenital cardiac care in Scotland. The committee contemplated various options for how activity might be taken forward to deliver the network’s outstanding objectives, and decided on a blended approach involving continuing national co-ordination through enhancing the role of the commissioners of the specialist congenital services working with regional planning and local cardiac networks. Ultimately, the committee sought assurance that the networking activity would continue.
Following on from SCCN’s successful two years of operation, the support for networking will be remodelled to ensure a fully integrated approach to the management of congenital cardiac care throughout Scotland, acknowledging that the needs of this growing patient group must be met at all levels. As leadership, capacity and capability grows at a local level, so the understanding of this patient group’s varying and complex needs will grow.

Clear benefits of the blended approach include: allowing ownership of shared care at the correct level – local, regional and national – and giving opportunities to mainstream congenital cardiac services within existing coronary cardiac services.

It is expected that this option will ensure that patient care can be delivered locally and facilitate the implementation of a model of shared care across Scotland. The National Services Division (NSD) will ensure effective networking by building stronger links with Scottish Government’s National Advisory Committee on Heart Disease and the Regional Cardiac Planning Groups and, through these, with the local cardiac MCNs. Through the commissioning of the national services, NSD will provide leadership and co-ordination on truly national pieces of work, such as the development of standards of care and the provision of training, development and communications; operational work will be owned locally as is appropriate.

We are already seeing more local ownership of congenital cardiac care, and it's exciting that in future there can be more and better networking through a shared approach. NSD will maintain the links that SCCN has established, and asks that you update our contact information which is now ‘NSS.SCCN@nhs.net’.

NSD including Mel Miller, Programme Manager, will work with stakeholders, including the SCCN Steering Group, Voluntary Sector organisations and those affected by congenital cardiac disease, to develop the new model, ensuring that activity continues to progress and patients are always the key focus to the delivery of care.
Hello everyone,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brin for all her efforts in taking the Network forward over the past two years and to wish her the best in her new role. I should also like to offer a vote of thanks to Hamish Walker and Muhammad Walayat who provided clinical leadership, support and their contribution to the work of the Network from the beginning.

As you may be aware, the work of the Network is being taken forward within the remit of the nationally commissioned services for Paediatric Cardiac Surgery and the Scottish Congenital Cardiac Service. I have managed both services in the past within NSD and previously have been involved with a series of national audits on heart disease alongside a national policy background within Scottish Government.

Some of you will know me from previous encounters and I am looking forward to working with you again and also to developing new contacts so that together we can reach the goals we’ve set ourselves.

Goodbye from Brin Maki

When SCCN was established in 2013, a fixed-term national managed clinical network manager post was established also. Brin Maki became the SCCN manager in July 2013, and leaves when that employment contract expires in March 2015. The fixed term for SCCN’s two Lead Clinicians, Drs Hamish Walker and M Walayat, expires then too.

Brin says, “I want to say goodbye and thank you to all SCCN members and friends. In the past 22 months we have made progress but there is much more to do. From my time in post I have been encouraged by the many stakeholders who are striving to improve congenital cardiac care in Scotland. No matter what the shape or structure of our hearts, we can all be kind-hearted, and I am glad to have worked with so many kind-hearted people!”

Introducing Mel Miller, Programme Manager, NSD

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Update your contact list with the SCCN email address for all queries
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