Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SIGN Evidence-based clinical guidelines

Role Description: People with lived experience (patients, servicer users, carers and voluntary sector representatives)

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

About SIGN

Our objective is to improve the quality of health care for people in Scotland by reducing variation in practice and outcome, through the development and dissemination of national clinical guidelines containing recommendations for effective practice based on current evidence.

We collaborate with a network of clinicians, other health and social care professionals, voluntary organisations and individuals to develop evidence-based guidelines. Our guidelines are based on a systematic review of the scientific literature and are aimed at aiding the translation of new knowledge into action. The guidelines are intended to:

- help health and social care professionals and patients understand medical evidence and use it to make decisions about healthcare
- reduce unwarranted variations in practice and make sure patients get the best care available, no matter where they live
- improve healthcare across Scotland by focusing on patient-important outcomes.

Further information about SIGN can be found here: https://www.sign.ac.uk/

Why involve people with lived experience in guideline development?

We believe it is very important for people to be involved in decisions that are made about their care. By involving people with lived experience in the guideline development process, we can identify their concerns and use their views to support findings from scientific research and the knowledge and experience of professionals. Examples of the types of things we are interested in hearing about include:

- what people want from their treatment
- whether people accept different treatments
- peoples' preferences, and
- the needs of different groups of people, for example in relation to their sex, age and ethnic background.

People with lived experience can also raise a wide range of other issues to make sure that the guideline development group considers the needs of everyone who is affected by a condition.

Role and Responsibilities

As a member of this guideline development group, your vital role will be to make sure that the views of people with lived experience influence the group's work. This may include any or all of the following.

- Attending group meetings (approximately four meetings over 12 months)
- Ensuring that key questions about treatment take into account issues that matter to patients/service users
- Identifying areas where people feel care could be improved
- Making sure that views and concerns of patients and service users are reflected in the guideline
- Consider how recommendations in the guideline reflect patients' and service users' concerns
- Identifying information and communication needs of patients, service users and members of the public
- Helping to ensure that the guideline is sensitively worded
- Helping to identify people to take part in the consultation process.
- Contributing to patient versions of guidelines (if applicable)
- In the content of the final publication, you will be credited in the group membership list and asked to comment on contents or consultation responses before final publication
- Following publication, guideline development groups are disbanded. As an outcome of networking with colleagues on the guideline, you may be invited to participate in non-SIGN work on the same topic. Please note that this is entirely your decision, and you would be participating as an individual, not as a representative of SIGN or Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience Required

We do not ask for particular skills and experience but we ask that you have some of the following.

- Direct experience of the guideline topic
- An interest in improving patient experience of healthcare
- Time to commit to the work of the group (e.g. attend meetings and comment on drafts)
- A willingness to convey the views of patient/carer groups not represented on the group
- The ability to put views across clearly, constructively and sensitively, taking into account other people's responsibilities, views and experiences
- A willingness to become familiar with medical terms and phrases
- Some experience of working in groups
- Good communication and team working skills
- Enthusiasm and commitment.

Training and Support

You will receive an introductory session about the work of the Evidence Directorate and SIGN.

You will be fully supported by the Public Involvement Advisor and are encouraged to seek support if you feel unable to carry out a task or need to discuss any aspect of your role. We will seek to provide any required training and you will not be expected to do anything that you feel unable to.

Virtual Meetings

All SIGN meetings are currently being held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You will receive training guides on how to participate in meetings remotely.

Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality

Guideline group members are required to make a full declaration of interests on appointment.

Please observe confidentiality in respect of all information shared with you in relation to SIGN processes and take steps to ensure it is not breached.

Contact Details

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