

Photonet - National Managed Clinical Network for Phototherapy & Photochemotherapy in Scotland



Education Strategy

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Version V3

Paula McKernan, Programme Manager

Document control

An education strategy is a document, which changes and develops as the work of the NMCN progresses. It is recommended that a system of document control be used to keep track of previous versions.

Key personnel

Title:	Education Strategy
Authors:	Paula McKernan, Programme Manager
Approver:	Photonet Steering Group
Owner(s):	Paula McKernan, Programme Manager

Version history

Version	Date of revision	Summary of changes	Changes marked
V0.1	January 2019	Initial draft	No
V1.0	February 2019	Minor changes following discussion at Photonet Steering Group meeting	No
V2	February 2022	Minor changes following move of Photonet course from Learnpro to TURAS.	No
V3	February 2025	Minor changes following discussion at Photonet Steering Group meeting Changes to network team.	No

Distribution

Name	Organisation
Photonet Steering Group	Various

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1. Background

The network was first established in 2002 and provides a framework to facilitate delivery of standardised quality patient care at the many different phototherapy sites throughout Scotland. The network aims to ensure that patients are managed according to evidence based procedures and protocols and audits practice and outcomes of every centre against agreed standards, hence providing a basis for improving the quality of care.

Like all managed clinical networks (MCNs) Photonet has a specific role in supporting relevant professionals to develop and maintain their awareness, clinical skill and expertise. This is achieved by providing pertinent education that meets their learning and development needs in relation to provision of phototherapy treatment to children, young people and adults. Educational opportunities are provided to increase the knowledge and confidence of staff delivering phototherapy.

2. Scope

This strategy covers the education of relevant professionals who support the referral and treatment of patients receiving phototherapy. This includes, for example, dermatologists, phototherapists and medical physicists.

This document is not intended to provide comprehensive skills and competencies frameworks for particular groups of professionals. Defining these requirements is the remit of other bodies that have a specific role in professional training and accreditation. The focus of this strategy is on defining the education that the network provides to support the ongoing development of phototherapy knowledge and skills among relevant Scottish professionals.

3. Education Strategy

3.1. Learning Needs Analysis

A learning needs analysis (LNA) was conducted with the stakeholders of the Photonet Managed Clinical Network. The results of this questionnaire has been used to inform topics for future education plan for the network.

The survey was designed and conducted via Lime Survey to allow for easier distribution ensuring it reached as many individuals as possible. The LNA was broken down into 10 questions. Questions were asked on knowledge and skills required to provide phototherapy, ways of learning, barriers and support required.

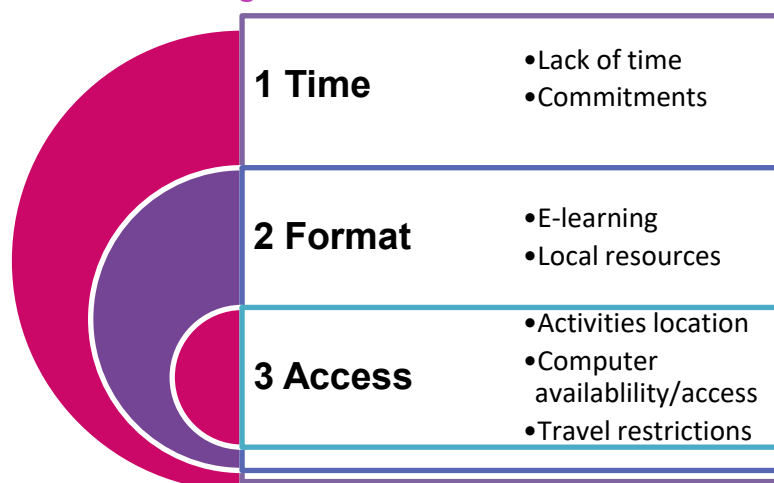
The survey was completed by 49 respondents and provided rich feedback about network members' education needs and preferences for how best to deliver education to them. The majority of participants were from the nursing/phototherapist community (80%).

Key findings were:

3.1.1 Format, Delivery and Barriers to Learning

Survey responses suggest the four most effective *formats* for education are attending education days, on the job learning, mentoring and e-learning.

The main *barriers* to learning were noted as time (clinical commitments, workload) and travel restrictions.



Respondents suggested five main mechanisms for Photonet to support education and professional development:

- Online training course/mentoring (TURAS Module)
- Education events/annual conferences
- Issue email updates/newsletters
- Providing advice on complex cases
- Photonet website

3.1.2 Education Content

A wide range of issues were quoted as topics for inclusion in Photonet education. These can be summarised in four categories, as follows:

- Topics on the *basic principles of phototherapy* (biology of the skin, science of phototherapy, skin conditions treated with phototherapy & contraindications)
- The *management of patients* (patient assessment, MED/MPD, treatment administration, adverse effects, skin review, role of phototherapist)
- *Safety* (Role of Medical Physics, UV safety (for staff and patients), risk management).
- The role of *Photonet* (treatment protocols/guidelines, benchmarking, national audit).

3.2 Strategic Approach

The network's approach to education needs to respond to the findings of the LNA, both in relation to the educational content and the most effective ways of structuring and delivering the education. Photonet will continue to provide a varied programme of education.

3.2.1 Photonet Education Programme

The education programme below outlines the education to be delivered by Photonet to meet the varied needs of professionals identified in the scope of this strategy.

(a) Education aimed at health professionals in secondary care with a specific remit for phototherapy.

To support the continuing professional development of staff prescribing or administering phototherapy, the network will support:

- The provision of an online phototherapy and photochemotherapy course and mentoring programme hosted on TURAS platform.
- Annual education event (usually in May) with content developed through LNA feedback, evaluation of previous events, Steering Group, Nursing Sub-Group and Photophysics Sub-Group discussion.
- Email updates through newsletters.

(b) Education aimed at health professionals in secondary care without a specific remit for phototherapy, such as dermatology trainees, medical physics technicians, or dermatology nurses.

This level of education includes

- Access to the TURAS course content without the necessity to complete the mentoring requirements for phototherapists.

3.2.2. Professionals without Direct Involvement in Phototherapy

The network also needs to consider the education requirements of groups of professionals that do not have a core role in phototherapy care but are nonetheless important provider of support for patients and their families. A key cohort within that are general practitioners and general dermatology nurses whose education is organised locally. The Phototherapy online course is available to all staff across NHS Scotland.

3.3. Photonet Education Governance

Strategic oversight of the Photonet education programme will sit with the Photonet Steering Group. Operationally, the delivery of the education programme outlined above will be managed by the network Programme Support Officer and Programme Manager.

The content of the education will be designed to meet the education needs of the target audiences. Changing education requirements will be identified on an ongoing basis to inform the future development of educational content.