



Surgical Conditions Affecting Newborns Scotland National Managed Clinical Network

Annual Report 2024/25



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Foreword

Welcome to the 2024/25 Annual Report from the National Managed Clinical Network (MCN) for Surgical Conditions Affecting Newborns in Scotland (SCANS).

The network managed to build on the progress we achieved in the previous year and continue to engage with a broader range of clinical colleagues. This has allowed us to move key areas of work forward on clinical guidelines and audit.

However, it is also important to acknowledge the challenges the network faces regarding its future direction. The role of networks in NHS Scotland is being considered more broadly by Scottish Government and these considerations will shape decisions about the future of SCANS. For much of 2024/25 the focus of SCANS has been on delivery of key priorities in the context of these wider strategic changes in NHS Scotland.

We look forward to outputs from the review clarifying the future strategic direction for SCANS to continue to improve the care we are able to offer babies affected by these conditions.



Introduction

Following a review of the Diaphragmatic Hernia Managed Clinical Network (MCN), the Surgical Congenital Anomalies Network Scotland (SCANS) was commissioned in 2018 as a national MCN to support the care for a wider group of babies affected by surgical conditions, including diaphragmatic hernia, exomphalos, gastroschisis, duodenal atresia and oesophageal atresia. The full name of the SCANS network was more recently changed to Surgical Conditions Affecting Newborns in Scotland.

The aim of the Annual Report is to provide stakeholders with an update on the work of SCANS, focusing on key achievements during the financial year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

It would not have been possible to achieve the progress outlined in this Annual Report without the commitment, time and expertise the Network's stakeholders have continued to invest, even in the face of the additional pressures on NHS services in a difficult financial climate.

The Network Programme Team would like to take this opportunity to thank SCANS members for their commitment and contributions.



Governance

Steering Group

The Steering Group is responsible for setting and overseeing the Networks' work programme. It is representative of the professional and geographical spread of services providing care to the SCANS patient population in Scotland. The group aims to work across geographical and organisational boundaries to support a 'Once for Scotland' approach to the planning, design and delivery of care for babies and their families affected by these conditions.

Programme Support

NHS National Services Scotland provides programme management support to the Network.





Progress in 2024/25





Progress in 2024/25

Deliverable



Progress



Benefits



Effective Network Structure and Governance

Steering Group

Hold three meetings per year, with appropriate membership to represent relevant stakeholder interests in the work of SCANS

Progress: Three meetings held (May, 2024, January 2025). There has been increased representation from key stakeholders.

- i) Effective decision-making and scrutiny to deliver agreed SCANS work priorities

Service Development and Delivery

Antenatal Guidelines

Revise or develop antenatal clinical guidelines for diaphragmatic hernia, gastroschisis, exomphalos, oesophageal atresia and duodenal atresia

Progress: Guidelines have been drafted and circulated for consultation prior to ratification early in 2025/26.

- i) Reduced variation in clinical care
- ii) Improved access to clinical guidance across Scotland
- iii) Improved patient outcomes

Inpatient and Follow-Up Guidelines

Revise or develop clinical guidelines for inpatient and follow-up care of diaphragmatic hernia, gastroschisis, exomphalos, oesophageal atresia and duodenal atresia

Progress: Guidelines were ratified by the SCANS Steering Group, with a view to adoption through the Scottish Perinatal Network Neonatal Guideline Oversight Group early in 2025/26.

- i) Reduced variation in clinical care
- ii) Improved access to clinical guidance across Scotland
- iii) Improved patient outcomes



Progress in 2024/25

Audit and
Continuous
Quality
Improvement

Deliverable



BadgerNet Reporting

Reporting of new diagnoses from BadgerNet (maternity and neonatal) to SCANS to ensure comprehensive capture of the patient population to inform improvements in care.

Progress



Progress: Ongoing reporting of new cases although some gaps in coverage remain.

Completion of a five year audit by April 2025 being considered for academic publication.

Benefits



- i) Accurate ascertainment of the patient population
- ii) Accurate data to inform quality improvement initiatives



Finance

The Network operated within budget for the financial year 2024/25.

For more information, please contact SCANS at: nss.scans@nhs.scot