



Action Mesothelioma Day, 4 July

Mesothelioma is a rare but aggressive form of cancer, caused almost exclusively by exposure to asbestos. Scotland, due to its industrial history and historic asbestos use, sadly has the highest incidence of mesothelioma in the world — with around 200 people diagnosed each year. A mesothelioma diagnosis is devastating for patients and their loved ones.

Carolyn MacRae, Mesothelioma UK Clinical Nurse Specialist, based at the QEUH, said: “In response to this, under the leadership of Network Director, Professor Kevin Blyth, respiratory physician, and with thanks to a partnership between Mesothelioma UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, and NHS Scotland, the Scottish Mesothelioma Network was established in 2019. The Network brings together expert clinicians and services from across the country to provide consistent, high-quality care and support for all mesothelioma patients — no matter where in Scotland they live.”

Over the past six years, the Network has worked hard to develop and improve services, including the introduction of Scotland’s first Mesothelioma Quality Performance Indicators (QPIs). Following initial funding, the Network is now firmly embedded within NHS National Services Scotland through the Scottish Cancer Network, helping ensure a sustainable and coordinated national approach to mesothelioma care.

This Friday 4 July, marks Action Mesothelioma Day – a national day to raise awareness of mesothelioma, remember those affected, and support continued research and service improvement.

We'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the dedication of staff across Scotland working with mesothelioma patients and to acknowledge the many patients and families impacted by this disease. The work of the Scottish Mesothelioma Network is only possible through the ongoing collaboration and support of colleagues across NHS Scotland.

The SMN MDT all wore blue to participate in, and highlight the day.

