

## PE1404/N

### Introduction

We thank the committee for its further consideration of PE1404, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to conduct an immediate review into the provision of insulin pump therapy (CSII) in Scotland in order to address the low and inequitable access across the country.

We also welcome the continued enthusiasm from the Scottish Government to delivering insulin pumps as expressed in their letter of 20 December PE1404/M and their £2.5m central purchasing of insulin pumps and consumables through for use by local Health Boards during 2012. We are also pleased to see their desire that Health Boards respond ambitiously to the targets set out in CEL04 (2012)<sup>1</sup> in the development of local action plans.

### Insulin Pump Provision in Scotland

In a recent Written Question from David Stewart, S4W-11803 (11 December, 2012), the Scottish Government replied with figures which although dated December 2011, give an update on tables published in the Scottish Diabetes Survey from the same date.

Table 1 Children on Insulin Pumps

NHS Board	Number of people <18 on an insulin pump December 2011		Number of people <18 on an insulin pump 2012	
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	18	7.8%	29	11.33%
NHS Borders	17	23.0%	19	26.39%
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	2	2.5%	5	6.25%
NHS Fife	19	9.5%	31	17.32%
NHS Forth Valley	12	6.9%	14	7.95%
NHS Grampian	22	7.0%	32	9.94%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	50	8.4%	68	11.76%
NHS Highland	0	0.0%	4	1.90%
NHS Lanarkshire	0	0.0%	5	1.25%
NHS Lothian	39	10.7%	54	13.17%
NHS Orkney	4	25.0%	3	20.00%
NHS Shetland	0	0.0%	2	11.76%
NHS Tayside	58	29.4%	68	33.01%
NHS Western Isles	0	0.0%	0	0.00%
Scotland	241	8.4%	334	11.36%

Source: S4W-11803, CEL04, Scottish Diabetes Survey 2011

Table 2 Adults on Insulin Pumps

NHS Board	Number of people >18 on an insulin pump December 2011		Number of people >18 on an insulin pump 2012	
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	17	0.9%	28	1.41%

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2012\\_04.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2012_04.pdf)

NHS Board	Number of people >18 on an insulin pump December 2011		Number of people >18 on an insulin pump 2012	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
NHS Borders	34	6.2%	33	6.06%
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	21	2.6%	24	2.69%
NHS Fife	113	6.4%	108	6.18%
NHS Forth Valley	33	2.3%	46	3.17%
NHS Grampian	50	1.8%	57	2.09%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	45	0.8%	71	1.26%
NHS Highland	29	1.8%	37	2.36%
NHS Lanarkshire	56	1.8%	57	1.81%
NHS Lothian	169	4.4%	202	5.23%
NHS Orkney	1	1.0%	2	1.90%
NHS Shetland	2	1.9%	3	2.75%
NHS Tayside	72	4.3%	82	4.91%
NHS Western Isles	1	0.6%	2	1.18%
Scotland	643	2.5%	752	2.94%

Source: S4W-11803, CEL04, Scottish Diabetes Survey 2011

## Assessing Insulin Pump Action Plans

After the publication of the CEL in March 2012 we advised the Public Petitions committee that:

“Implementing the new targets will require a determined effort from Health Boards and, in areas where provision is currently low, they will require to invest finance, staff and clinical will into meeting the new target. The last of these, in its absence, has been a key blockage to progress in the past; going forward, the success of the new policy could stand or fall on its presence.<sup>2</sup>”

At the last meeting of the committee where the petition was discussed (26, June 2012), Insulin Pump Action Plans were not available to the committee. These are now publically available from the Scottish Diabetes Group’s diabetesinscotland website<sup>3</sup>.

As we feared last year in PE1404/J there is a marked difference in quality, enthusiasm and commitment to delivering insulin pump services. For instance, the Action Plan from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde<sup>4</sup> highlights that in paediatrics:

“We cannot be certain that the target can be met, the specialist resources required are not readily available, particularly on a non recurring basis“

For adult services, the Action Plan notes that it would be:

“Not possible to safely deliver the required expansion clinically safely within the three years, advice is that we will need four years.”

<sup>2</sup> PE1404/J (March 2012)

<sup>3</sup> Health Board’s Action Plans are available from the Scottish Government’s DiabetesinScotland website [www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications.aspx?catId=6](http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications.aspx?catId=6).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications/ReportsPump2012/InsulinPumpsGroup%2011Apr12.pdf>

NHS Highlands also states that: “timescales required of the CEL are not realistic in the areas where we currently do not have a pump service” and of particular concern to NHS Highlands was recruiting enough staff in rural areas to meet their local target<sup>5</sup>.

The contrast with NHS Tayside could not be clearer<sup>6</sup>. Despite already being fully on target and ahead of the provision of insulin pumps for children, NHS Tayside plan to continue to further extend and enhance their insulin pump service. They have taken the opportunity that insulin pumps brings to develop and deliver a new structured education programme which includes for the first time in Scotland a structured education programme for under 18s.

Clearly Tayside has the benefit of years of commitment to delivering insulin pump services and are able to offer an exemplar service to their patients. Diabetes UK Scotland believes that the service delivered by Tayside is where all diabetes services should be, and until this happens then the problem of how to deliver an equitable service will be difficult to resolve.

### Meeting the Scottish Government target

The stated commitment from the Scottish Government was to deliver insulin pumps to different age groups at different rates:

“A quarter of young Scots with type 1 diabetes must have access to insulin pumps by March 2013, and by March 2015, the number of insulin pumps available to people of all ages with type 1 diabetes in Scotland will almost triple to more than 2,000.<sup>1”</sup>

Health Boards are reporting to the Scottish Government on a quarterly basis and we understand that Ministers have been kept informed and as Tables 3 and 4 show, some progress has been made but some challenges still remain.

**Table 3 Under 18s on pumps with March 2013 25% target**

NHS Board	Number of people <18 on an insulin pump and percentage of <18 T1DM Population		Estimated number of extra pumps and percentage increase required to meet 25% provision for <18s	
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	29	11.3%	19	13.67%
NHS Borders	19	26.4%	0	0%
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	5	6.3%	15	18.75%
NHS Fife	31	17.3%	19	7.68%
NHS Forth Valley	14	8.0%	30	17.05%
NHS Grampian	32	9.9%	46	15.06%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	68	11.8%	81	13.24%
NHS Highland	4	1.9%	47	23.10%
NHS Lanarkshire	5	1.3%	94	23.75%
NHS Lothian	54	13.2%	37	11.83%

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications/ReportsPump2012/NHSH%20Insulin%20Pump%20CEL%20Action%20Plan%20\(17.05.12\).pdf](http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications/ReportsPump2012/NHSH%20Insulin%20Pump%20CEL%20Action%20Plan%20(17.05.12).pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications/ReportsPump2012/Insulin%20Pump%20Action%20Plan%20120827.pdf>

NHS Board	Number of people <18 on an insulin pump and percentage of <18 T1DM Population		Estimated number of extra pumps and percentage increase required to meet 25% provision for <18s	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
NHS Orkney	3	20.0%	1	5.00%
NHS Shetland	2	11.8%	2	13.24%
NHS Tayside	68	33.0%	0	0.00%
NHS Western Isles	0	0.0%	5	25.00%
Scotland	334	11.4%	143	13.64%

Source: S4W-11803; estimate derived from S4W-11803 and CEL04(2012)

Table 4 Over 18s on pumps with March 2015 6% target

Board	Number of people >18 on an insulin pump and percentage of >18 T1DM Population		Estimated number of extra pumps and percentage increase required to equitably meet provision commitment for >18s	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	28	13.7%	93	4.6%
NHS Borders	33	-1.4%	0	0%
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	24	18.8%	26	3.3%
NHS Fife	108	7.7%	0	0%
NHS Forth Valley	46	17.1%	42	2.8%
NHS Grampian	57	15.1%	109	3.9%
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	71	13.2%	279	4.7%
NHS Highland	37	23.1%	58	3.6%
NHS Lanarkshire	57	23.8%	133	4.2%
NHS Lothian	202	11.8%	30	0.8%
NHS Orkney	2	5.0%	3	4.1%
NHS Shetland	3	13.2%	3	3.3%
NHS Tayside	82	0.0%	19	1.1%
NHS Western Isles	2	25.0%	8	4.8%
Scotland	752	13.6%	800	3.1%

Source: S4W-11803; estimate derived from S4W-11803 and CEL04(2012)

A full updated assessment on insulin pump provision will be available from the Scottish Government some time after March 2013<sup>7</sup>. Until that report is available we can only make an initial assessment of the impact of CEL04 (2012), however we can see that there has been some progress especially on pumps for under 18s.

Anecdotally, we are aware that more people (both under 18s and adults) are starting on insulin pumps and this is occurring in areas where no pump service was available previously. We are also aware that this process has not always been a smooth one.

<sup>7</sup> In reply to a written question from David Stewart MSP from November 2012, requesting an details of the current numbers of people on insulin pumps, The Health Minister Michael Matheson MSP, replied:

“The progress that NHS boards are making with increasing insulin pump provision against the commitments set out within the Chief Executive Letter CEL 4 (2012) on Insulin Pump Therapy for People with Type 1 Diabetes, will be published soon after March 2013.”

Written Question S4W-11413 (21 November, 2012)

As a parent, securing the best outcome after a child with Type 1 diabetes should not be dependent on your ability to make a strong case, yet we are aware of parents having to argue with paediatric services to deliver insulin pump services to more rural areas. When told by NHS Grampian that a pump would not be available for their daughter because they lived in the wrong area, one family from Moray initiated a complaint from within the NHS; sought the support of their MSP and contacted their local newspaper. The story ran for three days in the Press and Journal and was the subject of an editorial. NHS Grampian have now assured the family that their daughter will get a pump and they have indicated an awful lot of work was needed to be done for people living with diabetes in the area<sup>8</sup>.

## **Conclusion**

There is now less than three months before the original target for a quarter of under 18s to be on insulin pumps is reached. While we are confident that there is the target has been reached in NHS Tayside, Borders and Orkney, it appears that other Health Boards may not be able to meet the target and that significant challenges remain.

Diabetes UK Scotland will continue to work with the Scottish Diabetes Group and with local Health Boards in support of the expansion of insulin pump services. The Scottish Government have asked Health Boards to give details of the support required to meet the commitment expressed in the CEL and Diabetes UK Scotland is available to offer support locally if need be.

We would ask the Public Petitions committee that the petition remains open until there is firm of progress made by all Health Boards to deliver pumps to the levels for both adults and children as set out in the Scottish Government's commitment of October 2011 and as stated in the CEL 04 2012.

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Diabetes UK Scotland  
07 January 2013

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<sup>8</sup> Press and Journal, June 18, 2012