

What matters to *you*?

Any decisions about healthcare in Scotland are taken to help provide the best services. They need to be safe and accessible to those who need them, when they need them. The Scottish Government and NHSScotland are committed to involving patients and the public at each stage in the process.

Your views are essential. We really want to hear from you if you are a service user, parent, carer or family member of someone who has needed neurosurgical or neurological care. Anyone interested in finding out more about what these changes mean, please email us, write to us, visit our website and complete our online questionnaire. Please remember, it's *your* service.

Give us your views

by mail to: Neuroscience, Healthcare Policy & Strategy
Directorate, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

by email to: neuroscience@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

via online questionnaire at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/neuroscience

further information at www.scotland.gov.uk/neuroscience

Neuroscience what do *you* think?



Services for people who need neurological or neurosurgical care in Scotland are going to be changing . . .

We need you to help us shape the future.



What is neuroscience?

Clinical neuroscience deals with disorders of the nervous system. These disorders are many and diverse. They include long-term chronic conditions such as motor neurone disease, MS or Parkinson's disease. They also include traumatic head injury or brain haemorrhage requiring emergency treatment.

Disorders of the nervous system are common. Some are not difficult to deal with and can be managed very well in a local setting. Others are more complex or immediate and will require specialist treatment.

The two main neuroscience specialties are neurology and neurosurgery. Neurologists treat patients with neurological problems, while neurosurgeons operate on people who need surgery to the brain or spinal cord. About half of surgical cases are emergencies, usually because of injuries or bleeding in the brain. The other half are planned operations for things like spinal conditions.

Neurologists and neurosurgeons work closely together. Both need the support of a range of other specialists, such as:

Neuroradiology - provides information such as scans to help with diagnosis, and some interventional procedures

Neuroanaesthetics - people who need neurosurgery need specialist anaesthetists

Neurophysiology - especially in conditions like epilepsy and peripheral nerve disease

Neuropathology and **neuro-oncology** - vital to the treatment of people with tumours.

Why change?

A lot of research over the last few years has given us a better picture of the service we currently provide. It also gave us a greater understanding of what patients really want.

We understand that our services need to be designed to provide co-ordinated care along the patient's journey. It is very important that this includes effective communication between health professionals and patients.

We also know that care needs to be provided as locally as possible. However, some conditions will require complex or intensive treatment that can only be provided in a specialist unit.

Access to treatment, and the quality of the treatment received, should be equitable. All people, wherever they are in Scotland, should be able to get what they need, when they need it.

So how best to make sure we deliver this?

Taking into account all the available evidence, a government report called 'Delivering for Health' was produced. It said that NHS professionals and patients and their carers need to work closely together to make services better. Managed Clinical Networks can be a good way of making sure that communication and referral within neuroscience works well.

It also recommended that services should be delivered in three tiers. This means everything possible will be delivered locally. More specialist care would be in a setting such as a district general hospital. Complex medical and surgical care will be delivered in a specialised neurosurgical centre.

The aim of planning to change is to make sure that we have services which are safe, sustainable and fit for the future.