



Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme

Newsletter Issue 4

Welcome to issue 4 of the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS) Newsletter

Scheme News

Public Inquiry Update

The UK Infected Blood Inquiry is continuing to gather evidence from the infected and affected, as well as from public bodies in Scotland and the rest of the UK, and will be taking oral evidence from a number of infected and affected people in Edinburgh in the first two weeks of July. If you want to find out more information about the Inquiry or register your interest in attending the hearings, please see the Inquiry's website at <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/>.

If you would like to contact the Inquiry about anything their contact details are:

Email: contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk

Telephone Number: 0808 169 1377



Discussions on potential future changes to SIBSS

While the Inquiry is continuing its work and will be considering the support provided by SIBSS and other current and former UK schemes as part of that, some of you will be aware that some stakeholders around the UK have been asking for greater parity between the four UK nations' schemes. The Scottish Government is committed to retaining a separate Scottish scheme that has the ability to respond to Scottish circumstances. Overall, the financial support from SIBSS is higher on a population basis than in the other UK schemes so the Scottish Government is concerned to ensure that nobody would lose out financially.

Therefore it will be important to safeguard all the benefits SIBSS has over the previous UK schemes. Given that funding for a number of beneficiaries, particularly those with chronic hepatitis c, has recently increased following the Clinical Review of the impacts of chronic HCV, there are no plans to significantly change SIBSS payments at the moment. However, the Scottish Government has agreed in principle to discuss options with the other governments in the UK and the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, Joe FitzPatrick MSP, has therefore agreed to meet Jackie Doyle-Price MP, Minister at the Department for Health and Social Care, along with representatives from Wales and Northern Ireland, to discuss what might be feasible in future. We will provide a further update on these discussions in our next newsletter.

New Director

Martin Bell has replaced David Knowles as Director of the Scheme – see bio below:-
Martin has worked in the medical/health sector for 27 years, first in the military and latterly in the NHS. Prior to this he ran his family business for 6 years. Martin joined NSS in 2013 as Associate Director for Planning, Performance and Service Delivery. Working with the Chief Executive and Board to ensure the organisation's vision and plans were aligned to strategic thinking and then ensuring measures of success were monitored and pursued. Martin was fortunate to spend 15 months in NHS Fife supporting that Board in its plans to root out unwarranted variation in care and wider service provision. This work ensured NHS Fife was able to meet its fiscal requirement to balance. More recently, Martin has led the NSS team that has planned and delivered contingency arrangements for clinical waste management across NHS Scotland

SIBSS Annual Spend

Last year SIBSS spent a total of £8.3m on beneficiary payments and the budget for 2019/20 has been set at £8.75m.



Changes to Scheme Criteria

The Scottish Government published amendments to the formal Scheme Document in December 2018 – for full details see link to the document below:-

<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Services/Blood/Infected-Blood>

These amendments set out the new schedule of Chronic Hepatitis C regular payments resulting from the Clinical Review and also disallow the receipt of regular payments when serving a term of imprisonment. Anyone who is in prison though can start receiving payments again as soon as they leave and can still receive lump sum payments and also discretionary payments if they need them.

New Chair of SIBSS Appeal Panel

Professor Alison Britton has replaced Professor Graeme Lawrie as Chair of the SIBSS Appeal Panel. Alison is Professor of Healthcare and Medical Law at Glasgow Caledonian University. She is currently Head of Department and is chair of the Senate Disciplinary Committee for the University.

Apply to become a member of the SIBSS Advisory Group

We have an Advisory Group to ensure that the Scottish scheme takes account of beneficiaries' concerns and views on areas of operational improvement, in light of the budget available. See our website at <https://nhsnss.org/sibss> for a copy of the terms of reference. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Group and you would be happy to participate in accordance with the terms of reference, please contact the SIBSS team for further information as we are happy to accept applications from individuals who wish to help ensure the scheme follows good practice.

Did you know?

- If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer to talk directly, the SIBSS team are happy to give advice and assistance over the phone.
- If you receive a regular payment; you can request a monthly remittance advice to be sent to you.
- You need to inform us if you move address or your circumstances change.
- If you need counselling and other psychological support there is support available; contact the SIBSS team for more information.



Contact us

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