



# Newsletter

ISSUE TWO | SEPTEMBER 2008

Since our first newsletter in June we have been further establishing the network and working towards our year one outcomes.

## Progress in outcome areas June - September 2008:

### Outcome 1: Identification of priorities for standard multi-professional skills

One of the Clinical Skills MEN's main first year tasks is to conduct an audit of current skills education and training available in Scotland. This started in May, building on the needs identified by the established units which reported in 2005 and again in 2007. On behalf of the Regional Champions the MEN office wrote to approximately 150 regional consortia members, with a request for information on available skills training. So far we have received responses from 32 training providers and are expecting 12 more responses to gain a complete picture. Simon Williams from NES Head Office has been seconded to support this research for two days a week for the next six weeks.

We have scrutinised a training needs analysis completed by 143 rural health care professionals. Some of the data has been utilised to determine 10 priority skills for the pilot of the mobile unit. The full analysis is available from the MEN office.

### Outcome 2: Development of explicit quality assurance system

The NES QA framework and peer review process, discontinued in 2006 for skills packs is being built on to develop a sustainable multi-professional programme linking into other national QA systems such as Unscheduled Care.

Elgin Schartau, former Associate Director of NMAHP at NES, has drafted a QA framework discussion paper, which we shall be taking forward in the coming weeks.

We met with Maggie Havergeral from Skills for Health regarding the mapping of existing packs onto national competency frameworks and for the use of SfH competencies in the development of new packs.

#### HELP POINT

If you have packs you wish to be mapped to the national frameworks, please contact us for help taking this forward.

### Outcome 3: Establishment of a system of reporting and dissemination

To give stakeholders easy and up-to-date access to our work, we have established a website for the Clinical Skills MEN, which can be accessed from the Special Initiatives section of the NES website.

The URL is: [www.csmen.ac.uk](http://www.csmen.ac.uk)



### Outcome 4: Development of the Network

Jean Ker presented to Dr Michael O'Connor and colleagues who were visiting from Queens University, Kingston Ontario (Toronto) regarding the work of the Clinical Skills MEN.

She also participated in the 'Science of Simulation in Healthcare: Defining and Developing Clinical Expertise' conference in Washington USA, where she shared the skills strategy for Clinical Skills in Scotland.

Jeanette Stevenson attended the NES Paediatric Emergency Care open meeting on 22 June to see how the Clinical Skills MEN links into the Emergency Care Framework. Elements of the specialist tier of the Framework will be delivered through the mobile unit in Remote and Rural areas.

Jerry Morse participated in the Practitioners with a Special Interest (PwSI) group on 6 June, which was to support the development and design of Nursing, Midwifery and AHP (NMAHP) PwSI in the North of Scotland. This initiative to develop PwSI supports Scottish Government policy relating to the delivery of effective and sustainable health care in Remote and Rural Scotland and Shifting the Balance of Care. The development of formally networked PwSI across the multi-professional spectrum is one of the key workforce recommendations within Delivering Remote and Rural Healthcare.

Jean Ker met with Shona Cowan of SGHD Patient Safety on 23 June to discuss links between the Clinical Skills MEN and Patient Safety.



### Outcome 5: Development and planning of pilot of mobile clinical skills unit to deliver simulation-based education to remote and rural settings in Scotland

MEN Clinical Lead Dr Jean Ker, Regional Champion Jerry Morse, Project Manager Jeanette Stevenson and Network Administrator Felicity Garvie visited Cebotec coachbuilders at Falkirk on 25 August to view progress being made on the building of the Clinical Skills Mobile Training Unit. David Lapsley, Managing Director of Cebotec, which has already custom-built other training vehicles for the fire service, showed the group the vehicle. The base unit was delivered by Renault in July and the frame on which the extendable pods will rest, is now in place. These are operated through hydraulic power pumps/compressed air cylinders under the frame. Jeanette had previously visited the unit, along with Michael Jackson of the Scottish Ambulance Service, on 16 June to discuss technical aspects of the pod development. The most immediate concern was to finalise the power requirements of all equipment for the unit, to enable batteries to be sourced. With the audio visual equipment order placed, the power requirement is now known and the development can move ahead as planned.

The pictures above, showing Jeanette with the cab, the subframe of the unit and Jean and Jerry with David Lapsley and an Engineer from Cebotec, give an impressive idea of the size of the vehicle which will be used for education involving the use of simulation equipment in remote and rural areas of Scotland. Prior to actually seeing the vehicle, the group discussed storage, power and lighting requirements as well as the artwork for the unit. Progress is on schedule and Cebotec is confident that the vehicle will be ready in late November.

We set up a working group for the project which met four times and informed the use of the unit for the first six months, giving valuable input into the project and choosing the skills to be made available through the unit.

#### HELP POINT

Please contact us if you're interested in the unit visiting your area.

The membership of the group is the CS MEN staff, plus:

Ian Bashford – Medical Director, NHS Highland Direct Services  
Colville Laird – Director, BASICS Scotland

Elizabeth Mansion – NES, Scottish Multi-professional Maternity Development Programme (SMMDP)

Nikki Maran – Director, Scottish Clinical Simulation Centre Stirling

Rod McIntosh – Senior Resus Officer, Borders General Hospital

Pam Nicoll – Director, Remote and Rural Healthcare Education Alliance (RRHEAL)

David Rowney – Paediatric Retrievals Service, Edinburgh Sick Kids

David Sedgwick – General Surgeon, NHS Highland

In addition to the working group, we have also been liaising with other stakeholders who are interested in the unit, to ensure the use of the unit is co-ordinated in as efficient a manner as possible.

We have now written to the Chief Executives of Health Boards whose areas we wish to visit in the first six months of the unit's operation (to June 2009) to check they want the unit to visit and to ask them to put us in touch with the venues. We have chosen the first venues to enable everybody in mainland Scotland and some of the islands, to be within 90 minutes driving time of either existing fixed clinical skills units or the mobile unit. The trainers for national courses will be funded by the NSD and we hope to train local staff at each venue to deliver skills in chest drains, minor surgery and suturing and IO needles in children and adults. The courses were decided with reference to national policy, a training needs analysis we conducted of 143 R&R practitioners, and an audit of available skills training. After the first six months we hope to be less prescriptive about what will be delivered through the unit as we hope that through the initial visit of the unit local people will see its potential and have ideas of how they want to use it in further visits.

We wait now for confirmation from the Health Boards regarding dates and venues and will then begin liaising with the venues.

We are pleased with the progress made so far and by the time you receive the next issue of this newsletter, the completed unit will already be on the road!

## Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance National Meeting and Launch of Mobile Unit

The Scottish Clinical Skills Alliance is in the final stages of planning a national meeting to be held on 21 November 2008 at Stirling Management Centre. The focus of the day will be on agreeing how the Clinical Skills Strategy can help stakeholders prioritise and deliver basic and advanced practitioner skills training to meet Scottish priorities. We are looking for practical outcomes at the end of the event, which will shape the way in which this work is taken forward in each of the three regions.

There will also be an opportunity to view the mobile clinical skills unit and consider the potential of the unit to support skills in your area.

Nicola Sturgeon, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing will give a keynote speech on the implementation of the Scottish Clinical Skills Strategy, and will launch the mobile unit.