



Newsletter

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Resource development

The CS MEN has sought to develop skills packs where there is not yet a national, evidence-based, quality-assured pack for use across Scotland. Priorities for pack development were determined in response to needs identified by a survey of 143 remote and rural practitioners in Spring 2008, an audit of the skills education currently available in each geographic area from May to October 2008, and critical incident data from each of the health boards gathered in October 2008 in relation to patient safety.



In August 2009, Andrea Baker was appointed as Educational Resource Developer, to support the development of clinical skills resources to reduce the cost of duplicate resource development. Andrea's usual hours of work are Monday to Thursday from 9 am until 3 pm, and she can be contacted at a.baker@dundee.ac.uk or on 01382 740220.

Process for resource development

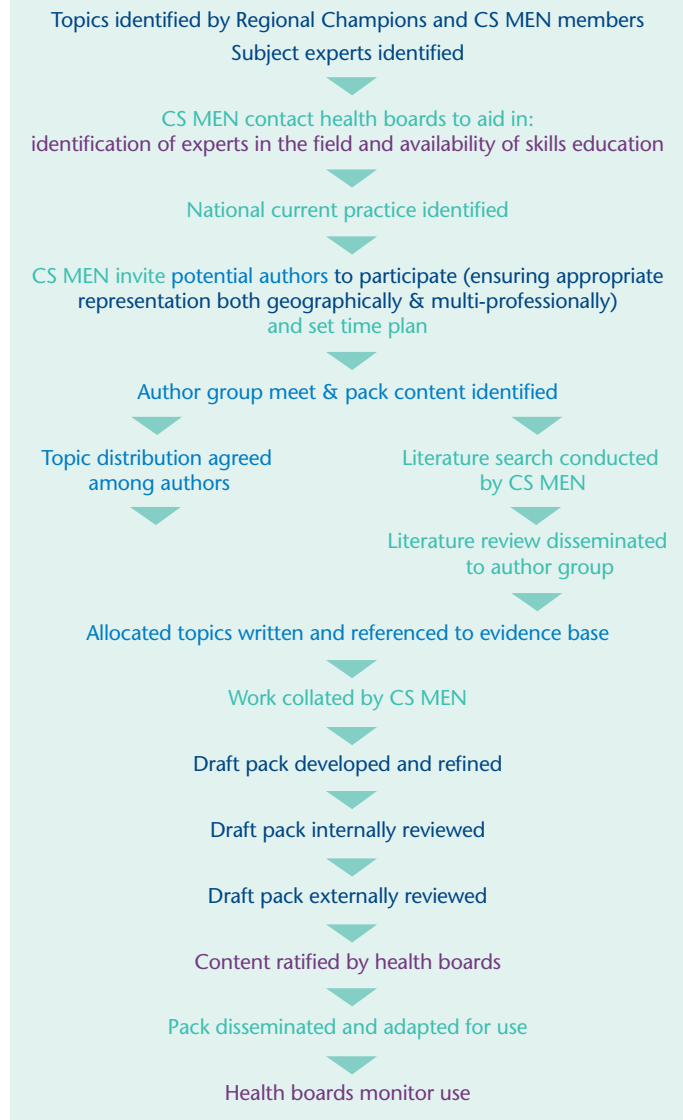
We have developed a structured process for developing skills packs, based on that of the multi-professional project of NHS Fife, NHS Tayside and the University of Dundee. We hope this will be adopted widely by resource developers across all NHS Boards, Universities and other education providers.

Skills Pack Resources Template

	Description	Completed Resource
1	Title page	Standard across health boards
2	Collaborative working	Standard across health boards
3	Contents	Standard across health boards
4 Section 1	Rationale for pack	Standard across health boards
5	User Guide	Adapted to individual health board
6	Learning outcomes including KSF/ competency standards/ performance indicators	Standard across health boards
7 Section 2	Learning Material (generally 6-10 topics)	Standard across health boards
8 Section 3	Theoretical Assessment	Standard across health boards
9 Section 4	Record(s) of completion	Adapted to individual health board
10 Section 5	Evaluation Questionnaire	Standard across health boards
11	Reference list	Standard across health boards
12	Authors, contributors and reviewer acknowledgements	Standard across health boards
13	Appendices:- Framework Procedural checklist Equipment list	Standard across health boards Adapted to individual health board Adapted to individual health board

Please contact Andrea at a.baker@dundee.ac.uk for more information on the process/template, or with any suggestions.

Skill Pack Development - process



QA of resources

All resources endorsed or developed by the CS MEN are evidence-based and developed with representation from the relevant professional groups and from different geographic locations.

We have developed a short self-assessment questionnaire to be used by the facilitators of skills sessions where simulation is used to ensure that the education delivered meets nine criteria for best practice in skills delivery. This is available to download from our website at www.csmen.ac.uk or from the CS MEN office.

All resources will be mapped to KSF dimensions and the SCQF as part of the QA process.

Skills resources developed or in development include:

Clinical decision making

Can we make clinical decision making safer?

By Graham R. Nimmo for the Scottish Clinical Skills Network Clinical Decision Making Special Interest Group

Decision making is an integral part of all our lives and from the moment we awake in the morning until we fall asleep at night our lives are rich in this activity. Some decisions are relatively trivial: should I have tea or coffee with breakfast? whilst others are much more involved: what should I say to my friend whose best pal has just died? The reason the second decision is harder is that it is related not just to cognition or thinking but it also involves emotions, biases and it is an unusual situation. In recent years the subject of clinical decision making has surfaced as important for a number of reasons. Just as in everyday life, clinical practice is rife with decisions to be made. Indeed it has been estimated that perhaps 80% of our time during clinical practice is spent thinking and making decisions and is dependent on context.

The Scottish Clinical Skills Network has developed a major interest in this area. Professor Pat Croskerry, a psychologist and emergency physician from Halifax Nova Scotia, was invited to speak at the SCSN annual meeting in Aberdeen in 2007. He spoke about the way we think, thinking about how we think and the factors which affect how we think. He then related this to the management of acutely ill patients and how clinical decision making impacts on patient safety. There are a number of factors which influence decision making and these could be grouped as procedural, cognitive and affective. Until recently it was thought that biases were innate and that decision making could not be improved by the use of debiasing strategies. Part of Croskerry's message is that if we understand about these biases eg fixation, overconfidence, we can learn to recognise them in order to improve our thinking and hence decision making. Two of the key elements in this are critical thinking and metacognition (thinking about how we think). These can then be taught in a variety of settings and using a variety of techniques.



Photograph by Tony Wales of the CDM group

Diagnosis and differential diagnosis are worthy of a special mention at this point. The process of diagnosis involves multiple variables including the clinician (experience, knowledge, temperament), the patient (affect, mood, illness severity), the setting (very busy emergency department versus calm, planned outpatient clinic), ergonomics and lots of others. There will be time pressures in some instances and a clinician may be dealing with multiple patients simultaneously eg in the intensive care unit or a busy GP surgery. In these settings we may make quick decisions rather than taking time to work through a logical diagnostic process. Patient safety may then be compromised.

In order to support clinical training and education in this vital area a special interest group has been formed within the SCSN. This comprises a multi-professional group of clinicians, educators and researchers from across Scotland, the NHS and the universities. The group is preparing a web-based learning resource which will initially comprise a portfolio of reviews of important publications related to clinical decision making and a general clinical decision making skills package which will be applicable across the healthcare workforce and to undergraduate and postgraduate students. The group has forged close links with Professor Croskerry and will be running a workshop with him at the Clinical Decision Making conference hosted by the Department of Nursing, University of Stirling on 27th and 28th September this year.

For further information visit the SCSN website at:
www.scsn.scot.nhs.uk

Learning safe communication skills

Lead: Dr Jean Ker, Clinical Lead, Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network/ University of Dundee

Status: Currently under development

Next steps: Draft for initial internal review using the agreed process by 30th September 2009

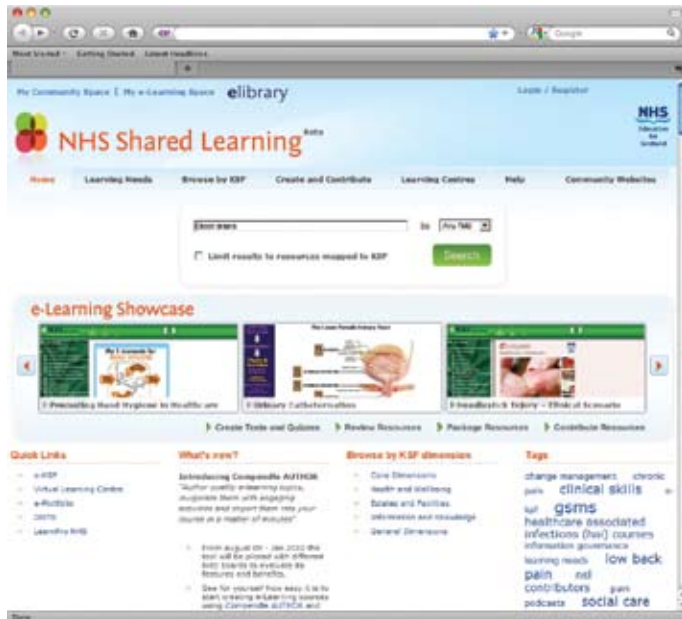
This pack will outline the evidence base for the use of a number of communication skills techniques which can be used in a healthcare setting to share information about the status of a patient or to handover information about patients between healthcare professionals as part of a patient's journey.

The interactive pack will also outline safe ways of communicating with patients using evidence-based tools. This is in response to the increasing evidence of poor or inadequate communication as a major cause of adverse events in healthcare practice.

The pack will be of help to any healthcare practitioner currently working in the NHS in either primary or secondary care contexts and will be mapped to the KSF and SCQF framework for accreditation.

For further information or to take part in the review process please contact Andrea Baker at a.baker@dundee.ac.uk

Chest Drains: insertion and care



Lead: Janet Skinner, CS MEN Regional Champion for the South and East regions, A&E Consultant at Royal Infirmary Edinburgh and Director of Clinical Skills at the University of Edinburgh

Status: Complete and available as a pdf from the NHS Shared Learning Website

Next steps: The contents are currently being developed to be available in an interactive format with assessment available online through the NHS Shared Learning Website

Review date: January 2010.

This multi-professional clinical skills pack aims to establish a standardised training for the insertion and care of chest drains skills for medical, nursing and relevant allied healthcare professions. NHS Lothian, the University of Edinburgh, NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network have developed it in collaboration.

The programme is suitable for any healthcare practitioner currently working or training to work in the NHS in the UK, who is involved as part of their work in the insertion and removal of chest drains, or the care of patients with chest drains in place.

On completion of the chest drain programme (completion of the pack, attendance at simulated practice session, supervised practice and successful completion of assessments), the practitioner will be able to insert or remove a chest drain, and manage a patient with a chest drain in place.

Learning outcomes have been mapped against the Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) competencies and successful completion will contribute towards Core dimensions 1-6, Health & Wellbeing dimensions 1-8, Information and Knowledge dimensions 1-3 and General dimensions 1-2 & 7-8. Core dimensions covered include Communications (C1-2), Personal and People Development (C2-3), Health, Safety and Security (C3-3), Service Improvement (C4-2), Quality (C5-3) and Equality and Diversity (C6-1).

The pack has been designed to be adaptable to the local context, with agreement between the collaborators to alter only sections relating to record-keeping. All other sections are standardised and cannot be altered outwith the agreed review process.

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Suturing

Leads: Dr Jean Ker, Clinical Lead CS MEN and Director IHSE, University of Dundee and Prof Ron Keenan, General Surgeon, Medical Education Unit at the University of Aberdeen

Status: Draft completed and piloted, review process underway

Next steps: Complete review process, map to KSF dimensions and publish on NHS Shared Learning site.

This Multi-Professional Clinical Skills Pack aims to establish a standardised training for suturing skills for medical, nursing and relevant allied healthcare professions. The University of Aberdeen, the University of Dundee and the Scottish Clinical Skills Managed Educational Network have developed it in collaboration with funding from NHS Education for Scotland.

In this guide suturing refers to the insertion of material to maintain satisfactory closure of a skin wound. The guide will be relevant to all healthcare practitioners who carry out this skill as part of their care of patients in either a secondary or primary care setting.

This guide contains theoretical knowledge and assessment with assessment in practice, which will enable practitioners to adjust and standardise the scope of their professional practice.



Learning outcomes are provided, together with a specific theoretical and practical assessment to be undertaken in conjunction with supervised practice.

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For further information or to take part in the review process please contact Andrea Baker at a.baker@dundee.ac.uk

Spotlight on the regions



Visitors to the mobile unit at Royal Infirmary Edinburgh watched a skills teaching demonstration run by Margaret Curren and Heather Blyth of the Paediatric Retrieval Team at Edinburgh Sick Kids.

Malcolm Wright, CEO of NES which funds the unit, said:

"I was delighted to have the opportunity to visit the Mobile Skills Unit. I was hugely impressed by not only the quality of the unit itself, but the range of teaching and training that is going on, through the unit, around the country. I do think that the unit has very significant potential for the future... and you have my very best wishes for the development of this internationally ground-breaking work."

From Janet Skinner

South and East Consortia (includes D&G)



We were lucky enough to host a visit of the mobile clinical skills unit to the Little France site of the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh on 11th August. This was a great opportunity for those of us from the South of Scotland to see the unit

and try out some of the facilities.

Over the course of the day several hundred visitors came to see the unit including NHS Lothian staff, students and teachers from the on-site University and hospital. Visitors also came across town from Queen Margaret and Napier Universities and across the water from NHS Fife. Malcolm Wright, CEO of NES, saw the unit for the first time and was hugely impressed.

We were able to see SimMan® in use with the video debriefing equipment, practise inserting a chest drain or listen to abnormal breath sounds on the sounds tutor. The team from the Scottish National Paediatric Retrieval Service based at the RHSC in Edinburgh did a fantastic demonstration of how the unit is used to deliver resuscitation training throughout Scotland using SimBaby® scenarios. Visitors were also able to practise their communication and clinical skills on a simulated or real patient volunteer from the University of Edinburgh programmes.

There were lots of positive comments about the mobile skills unit, which is clearly an impressive and excellent resource. We also had a lot of discussion about how the unit could be potentially used for delivering some training in central as well as remote and rural areas.

Many, many thanks to all of you who helped organise and run the mobile skills unit visit to Little France.

Please feel free to contact me at: janet.skinner@ed.ac.uk

From Jerry Morse

North Consortia



I have had a busy summer, relocating at the beginning of July with my colleagues from the Westburn Centre at ARI to our brand new Clinical Skills suite at the Suttie Centre for Teaching and Learning in Healthcare,

but still on the Foresterhill campus in Aberdeen. The new building has been purpose-built with state of the art facilities for students and staff and incorporates the new Anatomy Department. We will be settled in for the start of the new Academic year.

I've also had time to pilot the Quality Assurance self-assessment questionnaire for clinical skills facilitators which has been developed by the CS MEN to ensure that the education meets best practice criteria in skills delivery, and my colleague in Inverness, Ailsa Armstrong, has used the shorter version for individual courses. I would ask anyone who would like to take part in the pilot to complete either of these questionnaires, or to contact either myself or Felicity Garvie in the CS MEN office for further details. We are part of a wider group of healthcare professionals currently testing this resource for the CS MEN.

Finally, on 12th August the mobile unit went to Stornoway for a three-week visit to the Western Isles and I travelled with it to provide support to the local staff on how to set up and use the simulation equipment and the SMOTS audiovisual debriefing system. It is always a pleasure to get to know and work with such enthusiastic staff across my region and I look forward to further developing this in the next period.

Please contact me on my new number: 01224 437733 or jerry.morse@abdn.ac.uk

From Anna O'Neill

West Consortia



I have spent much of the past months in my role as Secretary to the SCSN preparing for the annual Scottish Clinical Skills Network conference which this year is being held at the University of Glasgow.

In my capacity as CS MEN Regional Champion for the West of Scotland I am hosting a visit of the mobile skills unit to showcase it to clinical skills practitioners in the West during the two days of the conference on 10th and 11th September. With the help of the CS MEN office we have sent out letters to about 70 healthcare professionals inviting them to view the unit in a special session on the morning of Thursday 10th September between 9 am and 12 noon before the conference starts. I will be on the unit with my CS MEN colleagues to greet them and demonstrate the state of the art facilities the unit provides. I have spent time liaising locally to highlight the work of the CS MEN which has involved meeting with Practice Education Facilitators, clinical staff and local healthcare providers. I have also advised on interprofessional curricular developments and the development of teaching packages. Please feel free to contact me at: aonei001@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

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