

Scottish Pathways Association

Affiliated to the European Pathway Association

Issue 1: Winter/Spring 2010



Welcome to this first issue of the newsletter for the new network for people interested in the development and use of Clinical/Care Pathways in Scotland. The **Scottish Pathways Association (SPA)** is the latest in a chain which builds on the success of networking groups set up by people working in the NHS in Scotland and partner agencies going back to the late 1990's.

Integrated Care Pathway Users Scotland (ICPUS), the most recent incarnation of the network, was established in 2001. It was a self regulated organisation, steered by a core group representing different health board areas and other interested partners.

Notable ICPUS successes include:

- ◆ Involvement in the development of the NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (QIS) standards for mental health integrated care pathways.
- ◆ Organising national conferences and open meetings all over Scotland attended by a total of over 1,000 people.
- ◆ Production of the ICP development workbook
- ◆ National mental health pathway training sessions held in every health board area in Scotland.
- ◆ A web site providing information on ICPs, events, links to other related organisations and a forum for discussion.

Mission Statement:

"SPA is a multidisciplinary group which aims to lead and influence the use of clinical /care pathways through education, training and shared learning, with the goal to improve and standardise the quality of patient care throughout Scotland"

Why create the Scottish Pathways Association?

Following the publication of the NHS QIS standards for mental health ICPs, the ICPUS steering group recognised that a major goal of promoting the development of ICPs at a national level had been achieved and that the network would now have to take a new direction to avoid duplication of the work being taken forward by QIS.

At this time the **European Pathway Association (EPA)** had just begun to expand by inviting individual countries to create their own official EPA national groups. On 28th May 2009 the first formal EPA council meeting was held; its members made up of the chairpersons from the national sections, one of which is Scotland.

Following this discussions were held with ICPUS and the Chair and Co-Chair of the Scottish EPA branch and the idea to form a new organisation in Scotland to take forward both the EPA and ICPUS agendas was born.

What can the Scottish Pathways Association do for you?

As a member of the European Pathway Association, SPA will take part in the activities of its parent organisation. But that's not all we want to do. We would also like to reflect the interests of people in Scotland and provide the kind of support and networking opportunities that would be most helpful to you. Are you interested in training opportunities? What about conferences, training materials, help with research? We will be sending out a questionnaire shortly asking about the clinical/care pathway work going on in Scotland and what kind of support you would like SPA to provide. The results will be reported at our conference in May.

About the European Pathway Association

The EPA is an international, not for profit organisation of clinical /care pathway networks, user groups, academic institutions, supporting organisations and individuals whose aim is to support the “**development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical/care pathways**”.

Launched in September 2004, the EPA has grown into an independent international organisation, with over 400 members. Membership is free and EPA members receive regular newsletters. The annual Care Pathway conference held in London (run by Healthcare Events) is supported by the EPA. More recently the Journal of Integrated Care Pathways has transformed into the International Journal of Care Pathways and is being published in close co-operation with the EPA.

The EPA also runs an annual summer school in Italy where participants spend a week gaining in-depth knowledge on care pathways and are able to share this knowledge with colleagues from a diverse range of countries.

Research is an important part of the business of the EPA and work in this area was begun with an international survey in 23 countries on the prevalence and use of pathways, published in 2006.

For more information look on the EPA website at:

www.e-p-a.org

What's in a Name?

The Scottish Pathways Association is a network and support organisation for everyone interested in the development, use, research and evaluation of care pathways in Scotland.

But what is a "care pathway"? Alas, different people call the same thing by different names and different things by the same name. The range of names includes:

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|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ Pathway | ◆ Care Pathway | ◆ Patient Pathway |
| ◆ Algorithm | ◆ Triage Pathway | ◆ Critical Pathway |
| ◆ Referral Pathway | ◆ Service Pathway | ◆ Integrated Care Pathway |
| ◆ Protocol | ◆ Guideline | |

We have no control over what others mean, but here at SPA we like to restrict our terminology to 3 terms:

- ◆ **Algorithm:** a one page summary that is a decision aid. Algorithms are usually based on evidence, laid out as a decision tree and often used by one professional in the care of one individual. They tend to represent one part of the journey of care.
- ◆ **Care Pathway:** a diagrammatic representation of a whole journey of care. Most often, these are a multidisciplinary, high level map of care. Based on evidence and good practice and often include all main referral routes (and referral criteria). They describe who is responsible for what and include main comorbidities and complications.
- ◆ **Integrated Care Pathway (ICP):** a system of care that allows the comparison of planned care with the care actually given. Focuses on the service user and is a part of the care record. The ICP maps out the expected care (multidisciplinary/multi-agency) and describe how care should be structured and coordinated. An ICP also sets standards along the care journey based on evidence and best practice and facilitates the monitoring of these standards through VARIANCE tracking (the recording and reflecting on whether certain events happened as expected or not. ICPs are a tool for continuous quality improvement.

It is always important to use clinical judgement whenever using any of these tools. SPA supports the use of all types of care pathways but encourages the proper use of ICPs as these provide a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of care provided.

SPA Website

A SPA website is being developed at: www.scottishpathways.com which will feature events, training, publications, and research.



How to Join SPA

Membership of SPA like its parent organisation the EPA is free. Members of the EPA in Scotland will automatically be included in the membership of the **Scottish Pathways Association**. We will also be contacting former members of ICPUS to find out if they would like to join SPA.

For new members please complete the application form on the SPA website at:

www.scottishpathways.com

European Pathway Association Research

One of the main activities of the EPA is to carry out research into clinical/care pathways. As mentioned, the EPA carried out a survey on the prevalence and use of pathways. The survey was carried out in 2005 and the results published in the Journal of Integrated Care Pathways in 2006¹. The aims of this survey were to:



- ◆ Gain an overview of clinical pathways,
- ◆ Create an opportunity for international networking, and
- ◆ Take the first steps towards the development of an international pathway association.

The survey concluded that clinical pathways are:

- ◆ A multidisciplinary tool to improve the quality and efficiency of evidence based care.
- ◆ Used as a communication tool between professionals to manage and standardise the outcome oriented care.
- ◆ It also concluded that:
 - ◆ Not all disciplines are always involved
 - ◆ Clinical/quality indicators are not always used
 - ◆ Pathways are not always supported by evidence based medicine guidelines
 - ◆ Most teams are using their own concept and methodology
 - ◆ Management is not involved everywhere.

The overall conclusion was that this was just the beginning!

¹Kris Vanhaecht, Marcus Bollmann, Kathy Bower, Clare Gallagher, Andrea Gardini, Jen Guezo, Uwe Jansen, Rashad Massoud, Karen Moody, Walter Sermeus, Ruben Van Zelm, Claire Whittle, Anne-Marie Yazbeck, Karen Zander, Massimiliano Panella (2006). Prevalence and use of clinical pathways in 23 countries — an international survey by the European Pathway Association (www.E-P-A.org). Journal of Integrated Care Pathways, 10, 28-34.

Latest EPA Research

Work has now begun on a new piece of EPA research – **an international Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial on the effect of care pathways for COPD and Fractured Neck of Femur patients**. The **EQCP Project** as it is known, is being carried out in four countries – Belgium, Ireland, Italy and Portugal and will be measuring processes and clinical outcomes for patients as well as indicators for teamworking.

Three research fellows will be carrying out PhD studies within the EQCP project:

- ◆ Mrs Cathy Lodewijckx: The impact of care pathways for COPD patients
- ◆ Dr Fabrizio Leigheb: The impact of care pathways for proximal femur fracture patients
- ◆ Mr Svin Deneckere: The impact of care pathways on teamwork.

For more information on the project please contact **Kris Vanhaecht** through the EPA website.

Scottish Research

Research is going to be a major key focus of SPA. We know that Scotland will be getting involved in EPA projects, but we also want to find out about research that is going on around Scotland involving clinical/care pathways.

In a similar fashion to the EPA survey carried out in 2005, SPA is planning a survey of pathway use in Scotland. The aim will be to find out what you are doing out there and what kind of evaluations or publications are about. More information to follow.

Recent Publications

The EPA prints a regular update of literature published on clinical pathways in the EPA Newsletter - view the most recent update at: <http://www.e-p-a.org/00000098440e52c02/index.html>

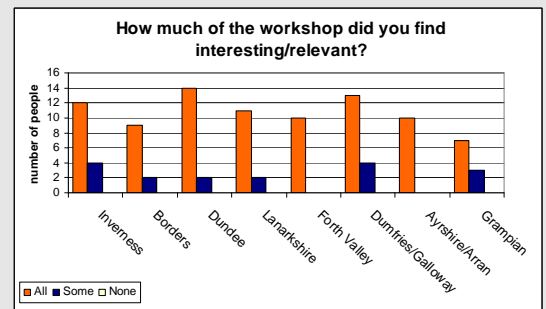
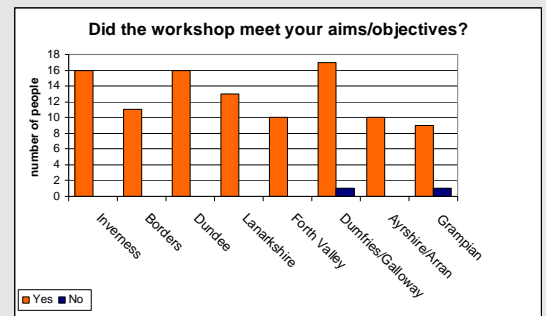
The literature search involves Medline (pubmed) and includes hand searched references from the **International Journal of Integrated Care Pathways**.

The SPA newsletter will be highlighting some of the literature published in the UK.

Mental Health ICP Training

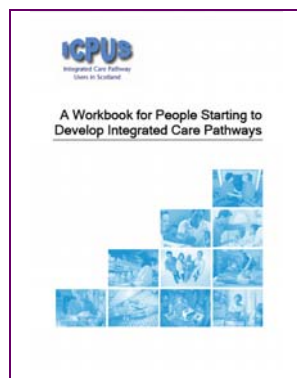
In 2006 a partnership was formed between ICPUS and the Mental Health Interest Group of the ABPI (Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries) with the aim of providing a series of one-day awareness raising workshops on Integrated Care Pathways in Mental Health. Over a period of 18 months 8 sessions were held in 8 different NHS board areas, with approximately 120 people attending. Verbal and written feedback received following the workshops was extremely positive. The main benefits reported ranged from gaining a basic understanding of ICPs to helping services build strategies to deliver on national policy and drive local service improvement.

SPA aims to continue with this training, possibly in both mental health and non-mental health areas. We are in the process of asking all health board areas to indicate their interest in such training and will report on the outcome in future newsletters and on the website.



ICP Workbook

One of the recent successes of ICPUS was the publication of a workbook for ICP developers. The workbook was produced in 2007 and is available to download from the



SPA website. We are in the process of updating it with a different format to make it a more interactive and useful tool. This should be completed in the new year and will be available on the website.

SPA Conference

SPA is holding its first national conference in Scotland on Tuesday 25th May 2010, at the Inchyra Grange Hotel, Polmont, near Edinburgh. The conference will be an opportunity to launch the organisation and will have a focus on implementation and research activity around quality improvement through clinical/care pathways. To register, please see our website.

We are pleased to announce a call for abstracts for presentations and posters for the conference. These abstracts will be assessed by the SPA managing committee. A prize will be given for the best poster on the day! **The deadline for submission of abstracts is Friday 16th April 2010.** For queries please contact: Janis.Dickson@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Contacts

SPA Chair: **Jeremy Wyatt**, Professor of Health Informatics, University of Dundee

SPA Co-Chair: **Ali El-Ghorr**, Implementation Advisor, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland

Email us on:

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Your News

We want to hear your news from around the country or questions you have on the development, implementation or evaluation of Clinical/Care Pathways.

The deadline for articles for the Summer/Autumn issue of the SPA Newsletter is 1st May 2010.

Please email to: Patricia.Kent@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Events Calendar

The E-P-A is organising the '3rd International Summer School on Care Pathways and the organization of care processes'

from September 6 - 10, 2010, at Lake Orta, in the North of Italy.

A brochure and application form, can be found at:

<http://www.e-p-a.org/000000979b08fc90b/index.html>