

SMC Patient and Public Involvement Group (PAPIG)

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This has been a busy year not only for SMC but also for PAPIG members who set themselves six main goals, namely:

1 To build upon existing levels of public awareness.

- In January, funding from NHS Scotland and ABPI enabled a conference entitled ‘Patient Power - Making a Difference, New Medicines in Scotland’ to be held in Glasgow. Members of the public from Health Councils, NHS Boards, Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committees and Patient Interest Groups (P.I.Gs) attended along with representatives from the pharmaceutical industry and the NHS.
- In June, an education grant from Eli Lilly enabled a workshop called ‘Campaigning for Success’ to be held in Edinburgh. This was attended by both employees and members of P.I.Gs.
- In June, an article was published in Scottish Home and Country to promote awareness of SMC within the general public.
- The Frequently Asked Questions leaflet has been updated to include NHS HDL (2003) 60 which related to ‘unique’ medicines.

2 To increase the numbers of submissions made by Patient Interest Groups (P.I.Gs) and promote improved focused submissions.

- During the period covered by this report we received 15 submissions from P.I.Gs compared with 8 during the preceding year. The focus of these submissions has improved and they provoke serious debate within SMC.
- To promote still further the focus of submissions, changes have been made to the P.I.G Guide to Submissions and Submission Template, reducing duplication that had become apparent within the document and focusing more closely on patients’ current perspectives on their medication and the potential impact of the new medicine under review.
- We have continued to build upon work commenced in 2002-2003 and have further refined the website. This now includes examples of two submissions from P.I.Gs.
- A letter of encouragement has been drafted and will be sent periodically to a selection of P.I.Gs who have not yet made a submission. These letters explain how to use the public involvement strategy and how to get further support.