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## SMC Patient and Public Involvement Group (PAPIG)

The number of submissions from Patient Interest Groups has increased with submissions received from 23 organisations:

- Ayrshire Support Group for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other Hidden Disabilities (ADDitUP)
- Beating Bowel Cancer
- Brain Tumour Action Group
- Breast Cancer Care Scotland
- British Lung Foundation
- Cancer BACUP
- Colon Cancer Concern
- Clydebank Asbestos Group
- Depression Alliance Scotland
- Diabetes UK
- Ekbohm Support Group
- Epilepsy Scotland
- HIV Scotland
- Lymphoma Association
- National Ankylosing Spondylitis Society
- National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease
- National Attention Deficit Disorder Information and Support Service (ADDISS)
- National Osteoporosis Society
- Osteoporosis Society Scotland
- Psoriasis Scotland Arthritis Link Volunteers
- Psoriatic Arthritis Liaison Scotland
- Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
- Psoriasis Association

These submissions provide invaluable insight into the patient/carer perspective and enrich the quality of debate, supplementing the clinical, economic and pharmacological perspectives that help inform SMC decisions. However, the Patient and Public Involvement Group (PAPIG) are currently commissioning on the public involvement process in an attempt to encourage more Patient Interest Groups to contribute.

Members of PAPIG have helped Patient Interest Groups in producing information for their members in the form of written materials for display on their website or in their newsletter. Representatives of these groups have been offered the opportunity to attend an SMC meeting as an observer and, in the light of their feedback, we have refined the observer experience to maximise its potential. To date, representatives from the following Patient Interest Groups have attended as observers:

- Alzheimers Scotland
- HIV Scotland
- InContact
- Manic Depressive Fellowship Scotland
- Prostate Association

To further assist in the development of submissions, two more worked examples have been added to the public involvement section of SMC's website.

Where a submission has been received from a Patient Interest Group, with their permission, it is now cited within the body of the Detailed Advice Document (DAD); the DAD is posted to any Patient Interest Group who made a submission as well as being made available to the general public via the SMC website.

PAPIG has continued its efforts to raise awareness of the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) and, in particular, the public involvement strategy. To this end education materials have been developed that include an information sheet for members of the general public; an article published in Voluntary Health Scotland Newsletter; and presentations in the Scottish Parliament, at two national conferences and at a workshop for Patient Interest Groups.

Members of PAPIG have provided information on SMC's public involvement strategy to the Canadian Optimal Medication Prescribing and Utilisation Service (COMPUS); NHS Northern Ireland; and the National Strategic Partnership Forum (England).

PAPIG has responded to consultations on Quality Improvement Scotland's (QIS) 'Refreshing the Patient and Public Partnership – A reform agenda'; National

Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) consultation on the process for a Single Technology Appraisal (STA); and contributed to SMC's response to the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (ABPI) consultation on Prescription Medicines Code of Practice.

Members of PAPIG have joined the SMC Impact Evaluation Project Steering Group; attended Communities Scotland public involvement consultation; and contributed to the planning of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh meeting Drug Safety – Everyone's Business.

The process of public involvement continues to be refined. This included work on recruitment and selection of new lay members and an amendment to the way in which Patient Interest Group submissions are made to ensure safe receipt of same, along with appropriate declarations of interest, and ease of contact between SMC secretariat and a named individual within the submitting organisation.

PAPIG has begun to extend its reach beyond disease-specific Patient Interest Groups and during 2006 the planned programme of engagement with Public Partnership Groups, Directors of Public Involvement, and individual medicines users through website opportunities, will begin.

**Wendy Nganasurian**  
on behalf of PAPIG