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Q - [Freedom of Information](#): In May 2009, NICE published guidelines for England and Wales recommending the use of 'sequential therapies' (eg massage, acupuncture, etc) for the treatment of persistent non-specific low back pain.

Given the level of good evidence and cost effectiveness detailed on those guidelines, is the Scottish Government also adopting them in Scotland through QIS?

In particular, what is being done with regards to provision of NICE's named 'sequential therapies' as part of the NHS chronic pain service?

A - The Scottish Government is aware of the NICE publication of National Clinical Guideline 88 on Low back pain published in May 2009. NICE Clinical Guidelines have no formal status in Scotland as the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), part of NHS QIS has responsibility for producing clinical guidelines in Scotland.

NHS QIS have established a Scottish Chronic Pain Steering Group to take forward recommendations in the Getting to GRIPS Report. Part of this work will be to develop a SIGN guideline on aspects of chronic pain management. The scope of the guideline is currently being agreed, but will take into account a range of evidence, including relevant NICE guidelines.