




# National Services Directorate Highlight Report



**2023-24  
V1**

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# Foreword

Welcome to the 2023/2024 Highlight Report from National Services Directorate of NHS National Services Scotland.

On behalf of NHS boards and Scottish Government, National Services Directorate (NSD) aims to deliver equitable, high value health services for Scottish patients with very specialised health care needs.

Our purpose is to support NHS Scotland and be a valued and trusted partner for planning, commissioning, and coordinating high quality, person-centred specialist services, networks, and screening programmes.

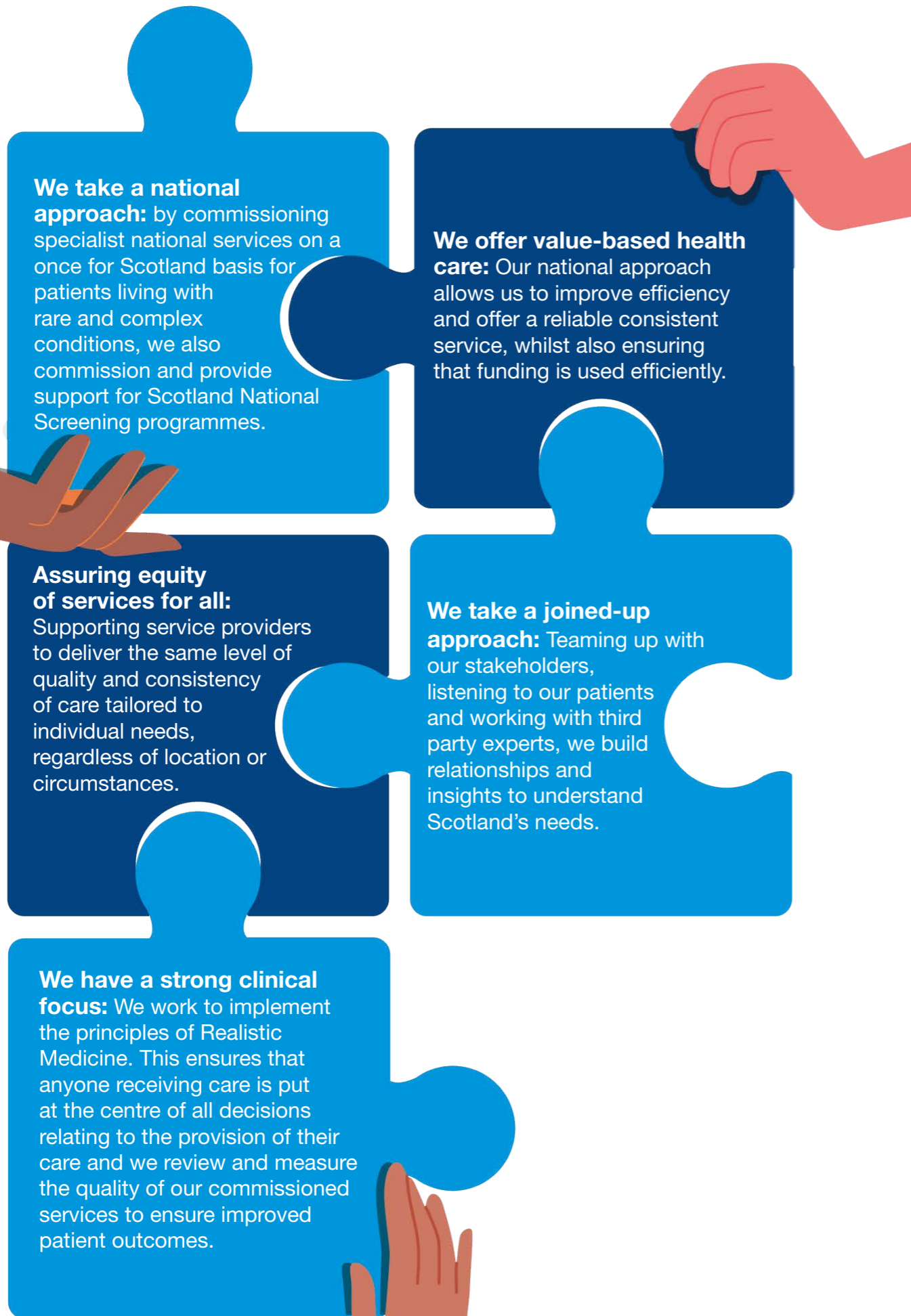
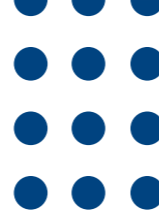
We hope you find our annual Highlight Report informative.



**Susi Buchanan**  
 Director of  
 National Services  
 Directorate  
 NHS National  
 Services Scotland



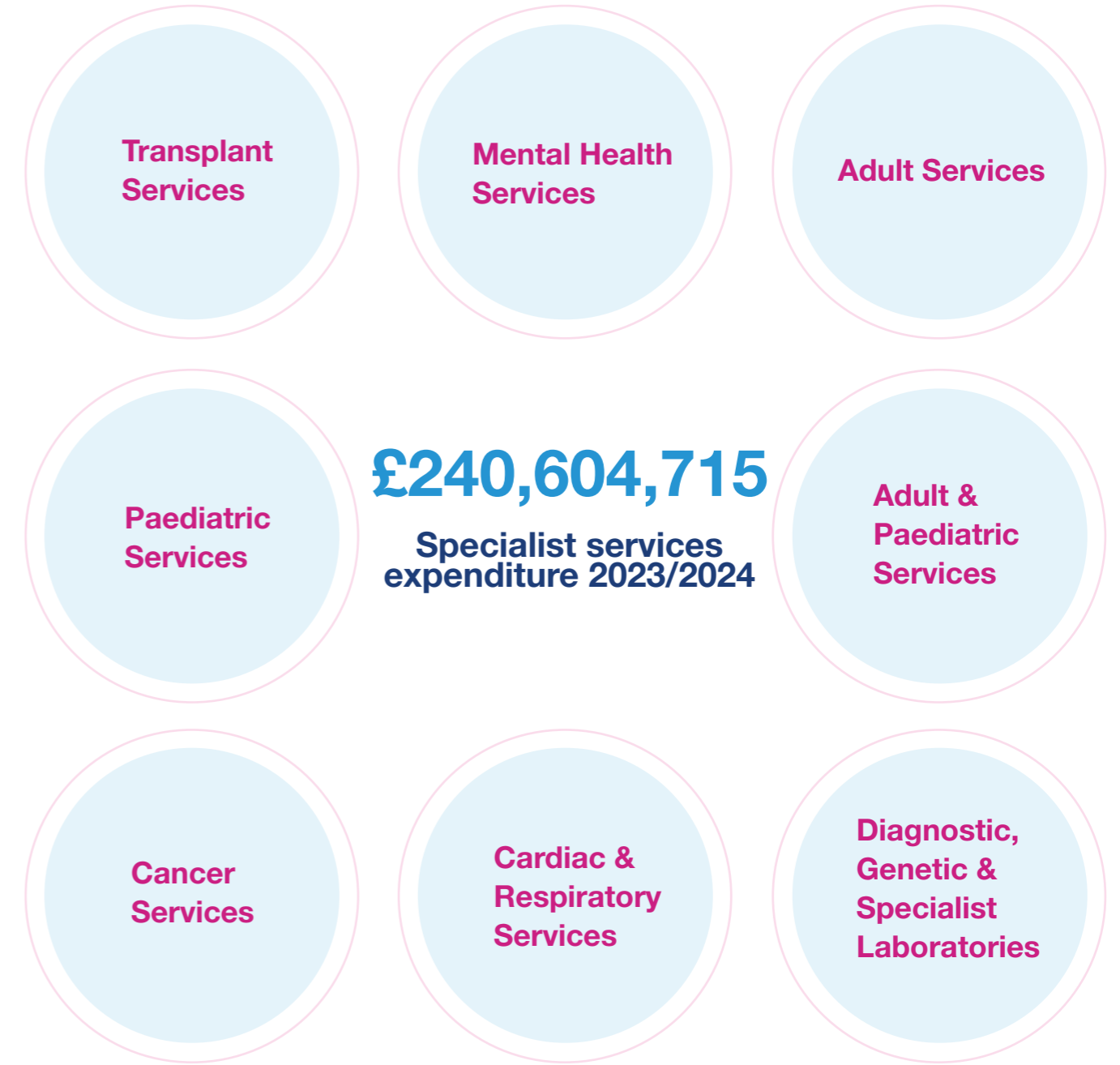
# Our guiding principles



# Specialist services

Specialist services provide care to patients with highly specialist needs, or those with a very rare condition. The specialist teams ensure that eligible patients, regardless of where they live in Scotland, have access to services that provide the highest possible standards of care to achieve the best quality of health outcomes.

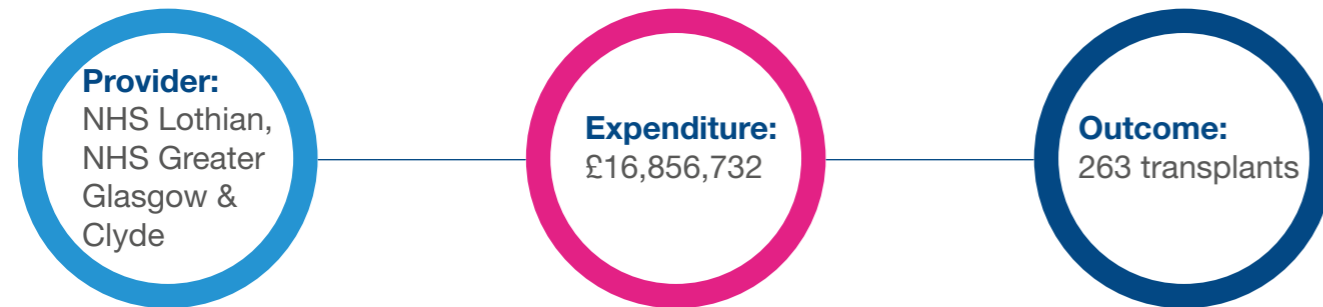
National Services Division commissions 57 specialist services on behalf of NHSScotland boards and Scottish Government. These include:



## Transplant Services



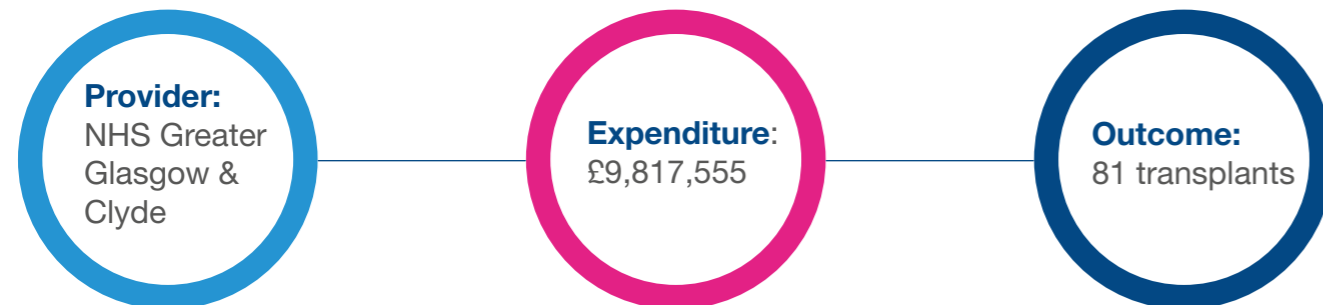
### Adult Renal Transplants



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/solid-organ-transplantation/renal-transplantation-adult/>

The Adult Renal Transplantation Service supports patients over 16 years of age who are living with end-stage kidney failure. The service provides assessment of potential recipients and living donors, transplant operations and inpatient care, with a follow up assessment prior to being discharged to local nephrology care.

### Adult Stem Cell Transplants



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/advanced-heart-failure-and-heart-transplant/>

The Adult Stem Cell Transplantation service is for patients over 16 years of age with haematological malignancy or bone marrow failure syndromes, in line with the BSBMTCT list of accepted indications. The decision to transplant is made by local and regional multidisciplinary teams and all associated assessments, follow-up, and admissions up to day 100 after transplant are included as part of the comprehensive service provided.

### Paediatric Renal Transplants



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/solid-organ-transplantation/renal-transplantation-paediatric/>

The Paediatric Renal Transplant Service offers a pathway for the provision of kidney transplants to children up to the age of 16, including all assessments, transplant operation and inpatient care. The service works in partnership with adult nephrology teams to aid the transition of patients to adult services when required.

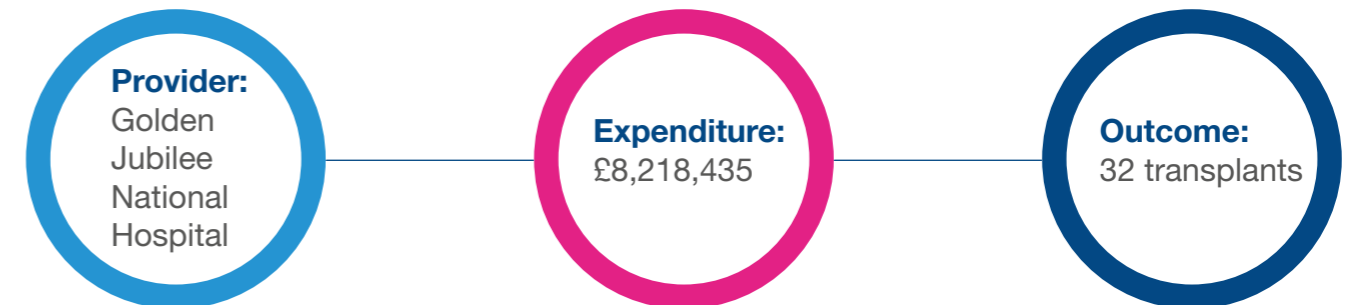
### Paediatric Stem Cell Transplants



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/stem-cell-transplantation-paediatric/>

The service provides hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) to children up to the age of 16, including all assessments and follow up. Young people known to the service still receive treatment until the age of 18. In an allogeneic transplant, the patient receives stem cells donated by another person. Conditions requiring allogeneic HSCT fall under two main categories: disorders that comprise mostly blood cancers, such as leukaemia, or non-malignant conditions, like haemoglobinopathies, primary immune deficiencies, inherited metabolic disorders and non-malignant bone marrow failure.

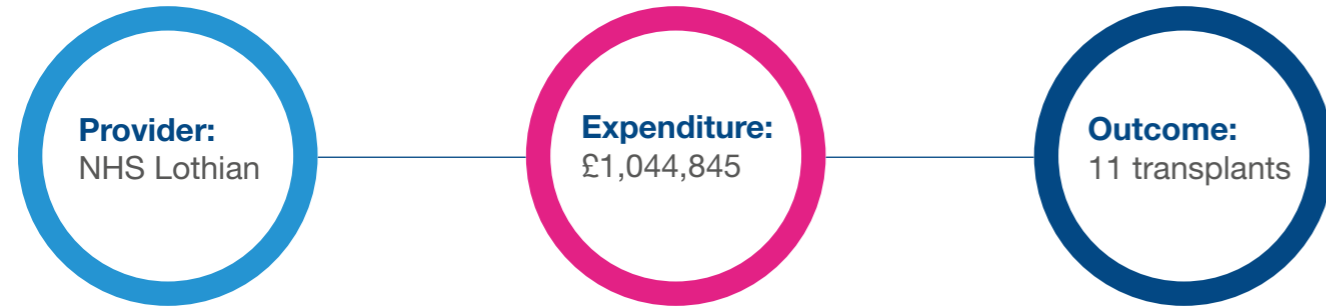
### Advanced Heart Failure & Heart Transplant



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/advanced-heart-failure-and-heart-transplant/>

The Scottish National Advanced Heart Failure Service (SNAHFS) supports adult patients with severe heart failure who have not responded to treatment by medicines and various other interventions provided at local and regional levels. A number of these patients may undergo heart transplantation.

### Islet Cell Transplantation



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/solid-organ-transplantation/islet-cell-transplantation/>

Patients over 16 years old with type one diabetes are considered for islet transplant alone if they have severe hypoglycaemic unawareness but normal or near-normal renal function, simultaneous islet, and kidney transplant if they have renal failure and insulin-dependent diabetes or islet after kidney transplant if they have functioning kidney transplants and diabetes. Patients are offered an assessment, islet transfusion, inpatient care and follow up for life.

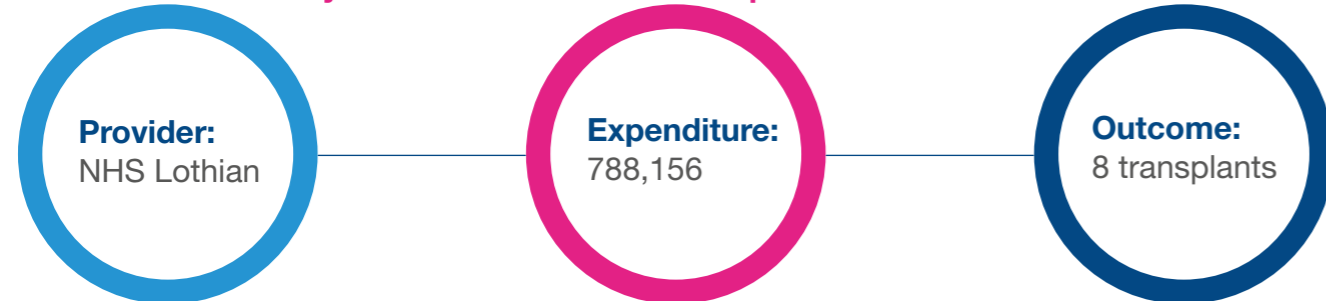
### Liver Transplantation



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/solid-organ-transplantation/liver-transplantation/>

Patients over 16 years old are considered for a liver transplant if they have a diagnosis of acute or chronic liver disease and subsequent failure, liver tumours (such as hepatocellular carcinoma, a particular type of cancer) and metabolic liver diseases/ variant syndromes. All patients are offered an assessment, transplant operation, inpatient care and follow up for life.

### Simultaneous Kidney Pancreas- Pancreas Transplantation



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/solid-organ-transplantation/pancreatic-transplantation/>

Patients over 16 years old living with Type One insulin-dependent diabetes and end stage kidney failure are considered for a pancreas transplant if they have severe hypoglycaemic unawareness but normal or near-normal renal function, a simultaneous pancreas and kidney transplant if they have renal failure and insulin-dependent diabetes and pancreas after kidney transplant if they have a functioning kidney transplant and insulin dependent diabetes. All patients are offered an assessment, transplant operation, inpatient care and follow up for life.

### Mental Health Services



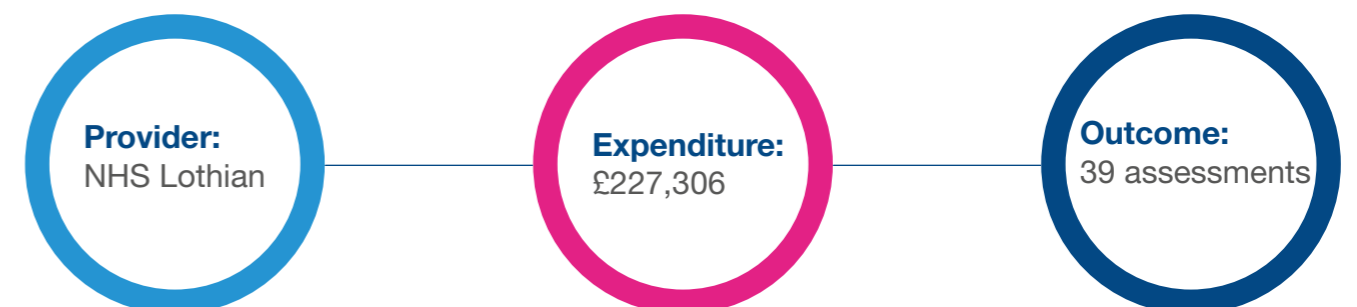
### Advanced Interventions



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/advanced-interventions/>

The Advanced Interventions Service (AIS) provides assessment and treatment options for people suffering from chronic and severe treatment-refractory depression (TRD). Failure to respond to other types of treatment is generally the reason for referral. Patients with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) may need advanced interventions. The service also assesses patient suitability for neurosurgical treatment. They may benefit from ablative neurosurgery. The service's primary aim is to improve symptoms of OCD or reduce depressive symptoms.

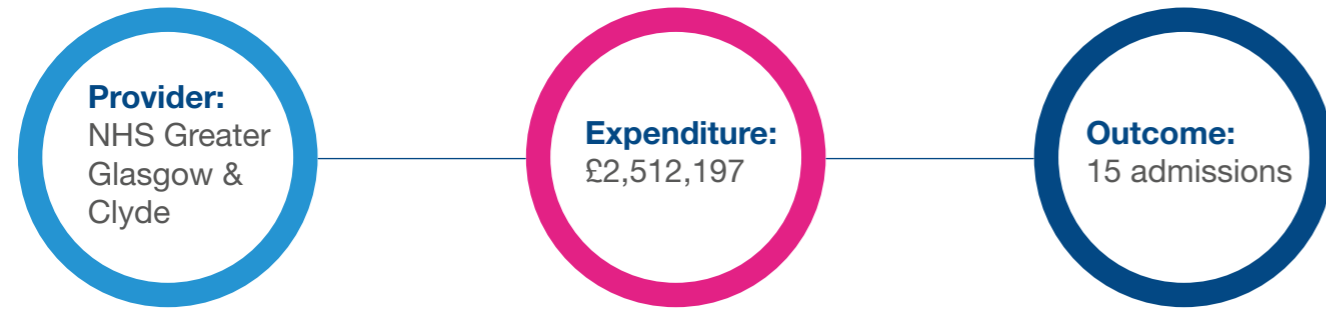
### Mental Health Service for Deaf People



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/mental-health-service-for-deaf-people/>

The service team based at St John's Hospital, Livingston coordinate outreach clinics across the country providing specialist help for deaf adults with moderate or severe mental health conditions. Such communication difficulties may complicate the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders for patients. The service also provides advice and training for mental health professionals to support people in their local communities.

## Child Inpatient Psychiatry



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/child-inpatient-psychiatry/>

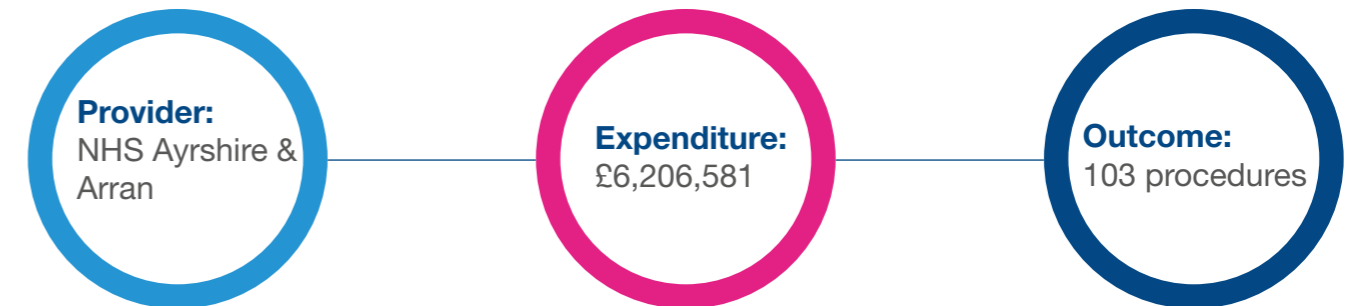
The Child Inpatient Psychiatry Unit is based in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow and provides psychiatric services for children aged five to 11 years. Specialist care at the unit is for the most complex psychiatric cases. There are six beds available for children. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) refer patients to the unit when children fail to respond to care at a local and regional level and they require specialist treatment.



## Adult & Paediatric Services



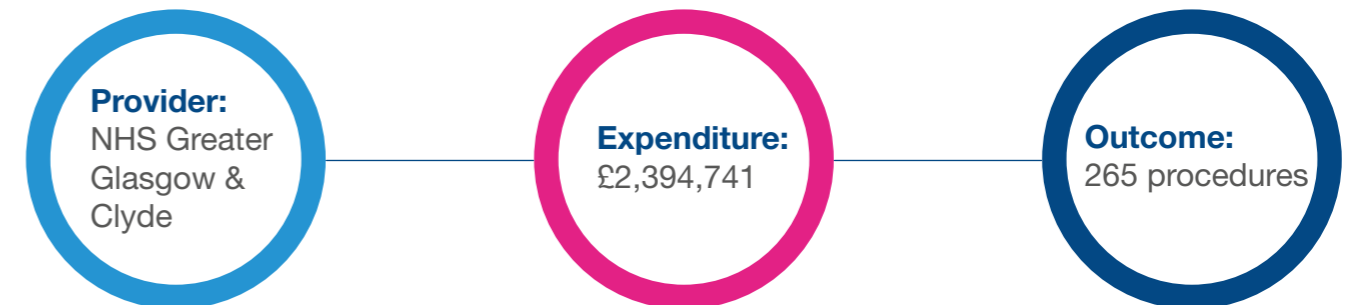
## Cochlear Implantation: Adult & Paediatric



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/cochlear-implantation-adult-and-paediatrics/>

The Scottish Cochlear Implant Programme (SCIP), based at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, is for profoundly deaf adults and children. It provides assessment and specialist implantation surgery for patients with severe to profound deafness who have gained little or no benefit from conventional acoustic hearing aids. Speech and language therapy support and follow up are also part of the service.

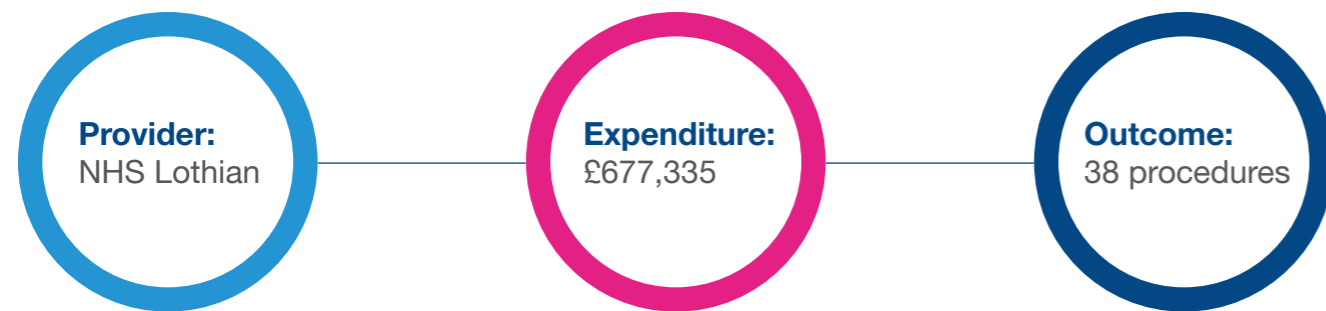
## Cleft Lip & Palate



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/cleft-lip-and-palate/>

Based in the Royal Hospital for Children and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, this service provides cleft lip and palate treatment and care to children and adults. The service includes assessment, specialist surgery, specialist nursing and clinical psychology. Some adults who have already had a cleft lip or palate repair may still have some functional problems or be self-conscious or unhappy about their appearance. GPs may refer such cases back to the service for assessment and consideration for further surgical intervention.

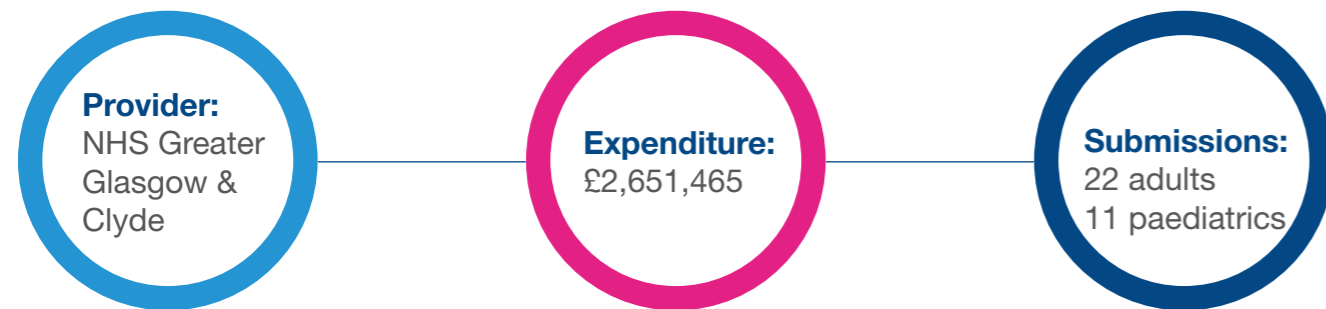
### Ear and Atresia Reconstruction: Adult & Children



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/ear-and-atresia-reconstruction-adult-and-paediatric/>

The Ear and Atresia Reconstruction Service provides assessment, surgery and review for adults and children who require ear reconstruction or implantable hearing devices. Adults are treated at St John's Hospital Livingston, with children's services provided from The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

### Scottish National Burns Centre: Adult and Paediatrics



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/scottish-national-burns-centre/>

The service is hosted within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, located within the Glasgow Royal Infirmary (adults) and the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow (paediatrics). The service provides a holistic service ranging from admission and treatment in intensive care services through surgery, physiotherapy, psychological support, and other required patient support for patients who have experienced a large or complex burn injury

### Epidermolysis Bullosa (Paediatric & Adult)



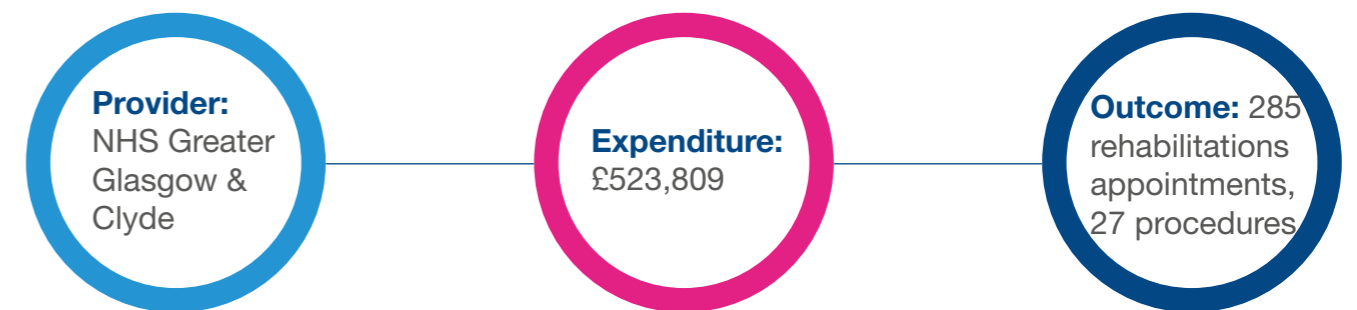
**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/epidermolysis-bullosa/>

This service offers specialist outreach nursing support and treatment to adults and children living with the rare skin condition epidermolysis bullosa (EB) which causes life-long blistering and ulceration of the skin and mucus membranes. Specialist nurses provide services including wound care management and symptom control to help reduce the debilitating symptoms and complications of this painful condition.

## Adult Services



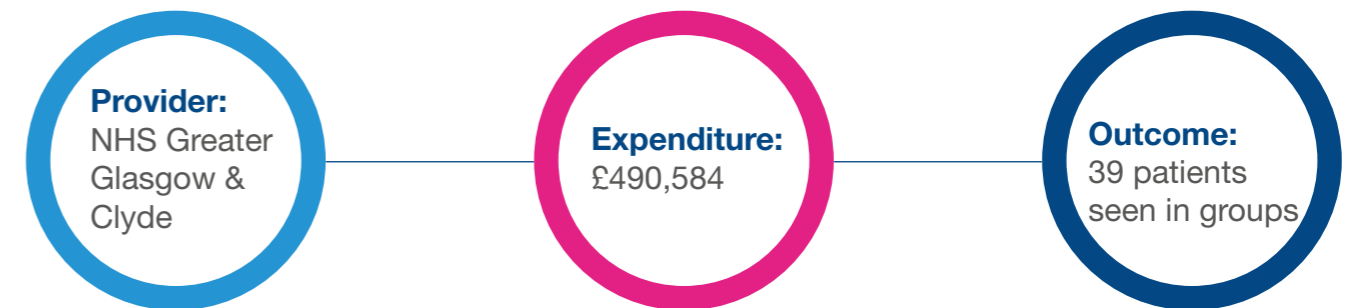
### Adult Brachial Plexus Injury



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/brachial-plexus-injury-adult/>

An integrated multidisciplinary service for traumatic brachial plexus injury and tumours involving the brachial plexus in adults. The service, based in the New Victoria Hospital, Glasgow, provides assessment, treatment, and specialist surgery where necessary, depending on the severity of the injury.

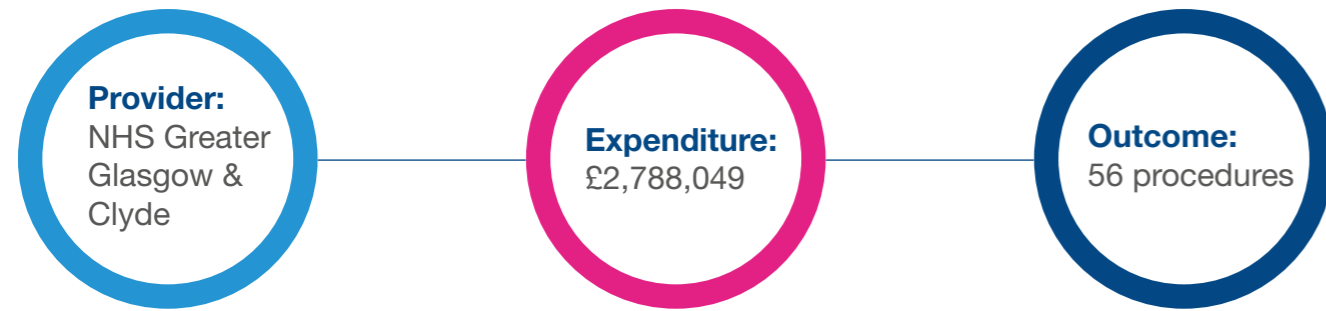
### Scottish National Pain Management Programme



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/scottish-national-pain-management-programme/>

The Scottish National Pain Management Programme offers access to a highly specialist, intensive programme for adults with severe chronic pain. The interdisciplinary team help with developing self-management skills to cope with persistent chronic pain. The programme provides both residential and virtual intensive pain management programmes.

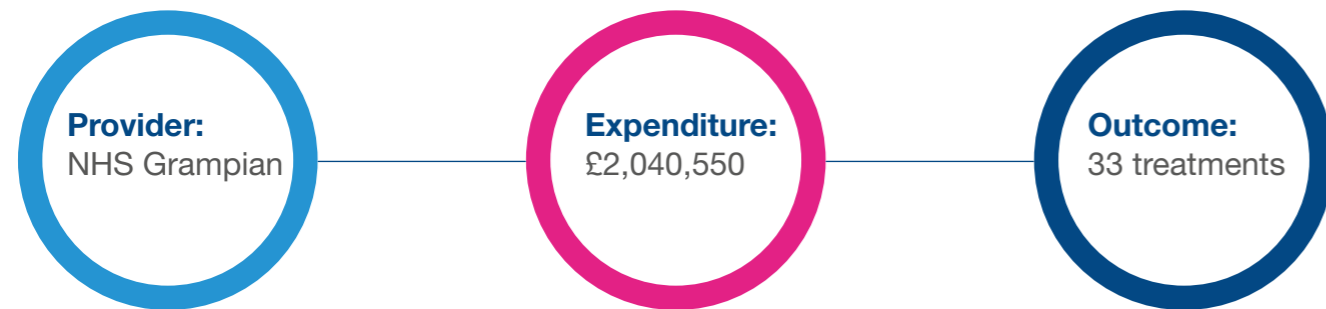
### Deep Brain Stimulation



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/deep-brain-stimulation/>

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) is a treatment that can ease the symptoms of movement and (psychiatric) disorders, for patients living with conditions such as Parkinson's and Dystonia. Based at the Institute of Neurological Sciences in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, the service provides assessment, surgery, post-operative care, and follow up management. Ongoing care is given by local services.

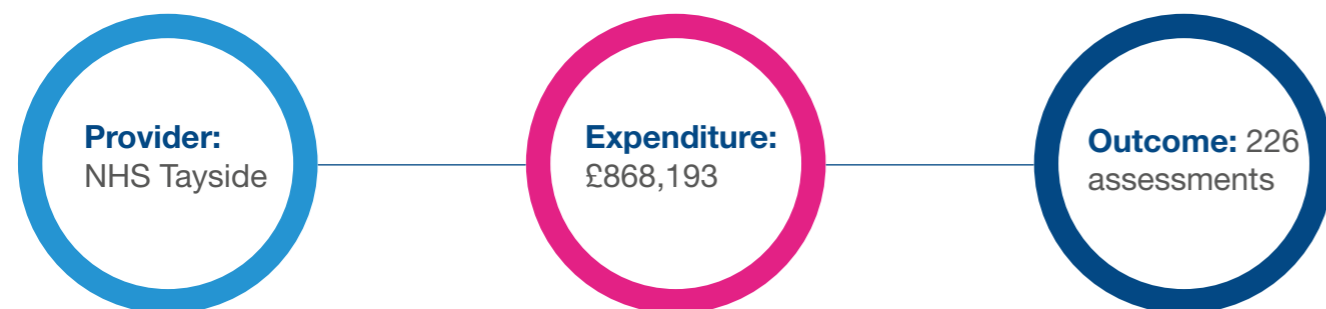
### Hyperbaric Medicine



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/hyperbaric-medicine/>

The hyperbaric medicine unit provides treatment and advice for diving related illness using recompression or decompression therapy. The unit is situated within Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and is supported by one other centre based in Orkney. They provide telephone advice and care 24 hours a day, seven days a week to divers, medical professionals, and the coastguard.

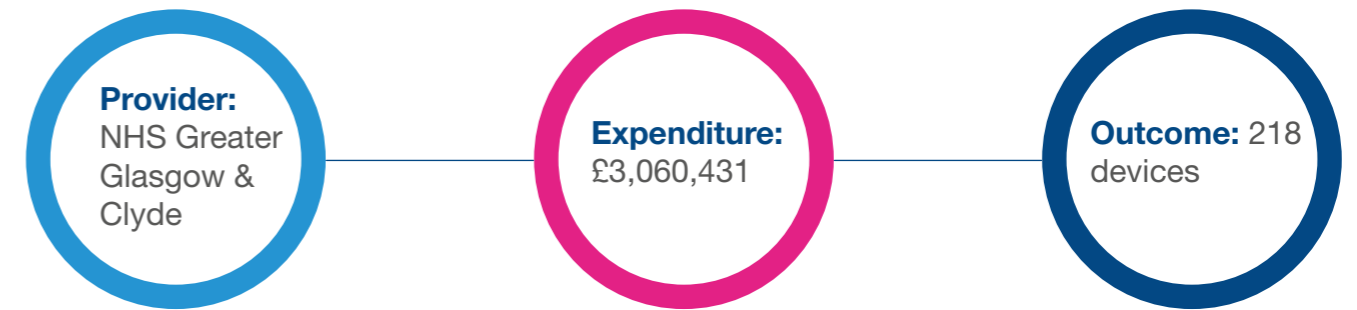
### Photobiology



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/photobiology/>

The Photobiology Unit provides a diagnostic and management advice service for patients throughout Scotland who live with UV-associated skin disorders (photosensitivity). Based at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, specialist dermatologists examine referred patients for the diagnosis of photosensitive dermatological conditions. Clinical management arising from consultation, investigations and advice for ongoing care is also provided. The service additionally includes the investigation of cutaneous porphyrias with a clinical advice service.

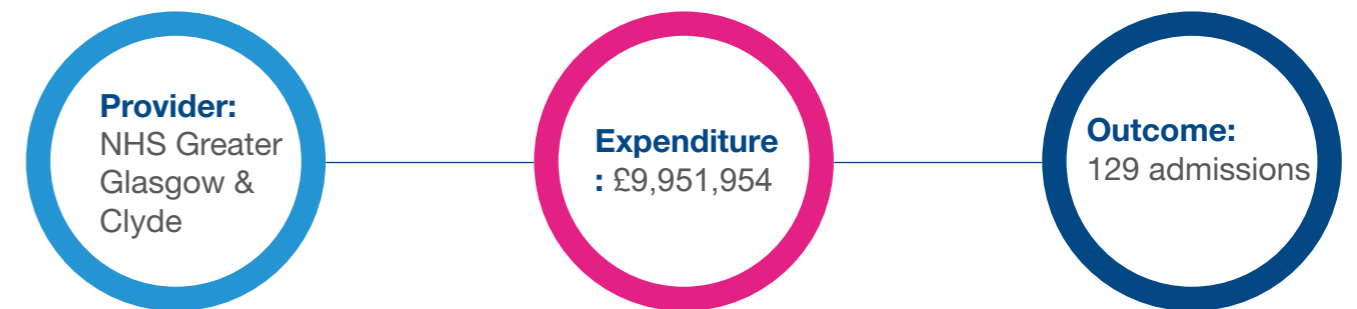
### Specialist Prosthetics



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/specialist-prosthetics/>

The Specialist Prosthetics Service is provided by a single multidisciplinary team based at West of Scotland Mobility and Rehabilitation Centre (WestMARC) at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, and the Southeast Mobility and Rehabilitation Technology (SMART) centre at Astley Ainslie Hospital in Edinburgh. The service manages assessment, prescription, and provision of specialist prostheses to eligible patients.

### Spinal Injuries



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/spinal-injuries/>

The Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit (QENSIU) supports patients with acute spinal injury either following a trauma or because of disease or infection to the spinal cord, and ongoing lifetime care of all patients to maximise function and prevent complications of paralysis. The service provides acute surgical management and both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation for young people and adults. The unit comprises of 12 high dependency beds, 30 rehabilitation beds, six-bedded respiratory care unit, a fully-equipped gymnasium, hydrotherapy pool and step-down unit.

### Stereotactic Radiotherapy

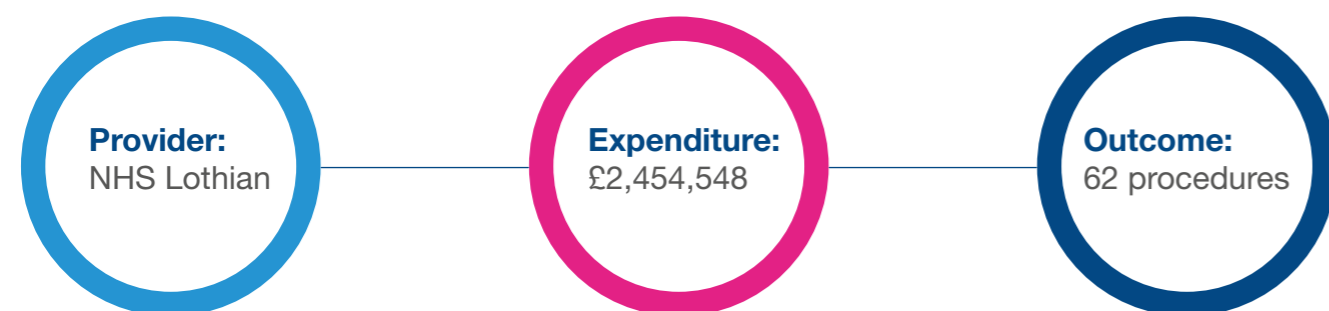


**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/stereotactic-radiotherapy/>

Highly focused Stereotactic Radiotherapy is used to treat non-cancerous conditions - arteriovenous malformations (AVM) and vestibular schwannoma (VS). A small number of rarer tumours can also benefit from this treatment. Patients need stereotactic radiotherapy if surgery may have too high a risk of mortality or morbidity. Several beams of radiation precisely target the tumours. In addition to those who are treated, many discuss management options with the expert team.



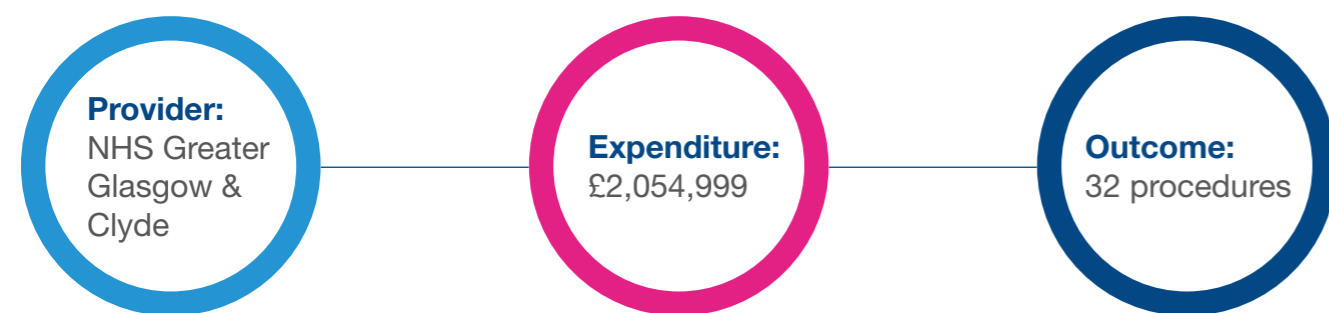
### Supra-renal and thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/supra-renal-and-thoraco-abdominal-aortic-aneurysm/>

The service, based at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, repairs extensive aneurysms that extend along the thoracic (chest) and abdominal sections of the aorta. Treatment options include either open surgery or endovascular repair by inserting a stent.

### Mesh Surgical Service



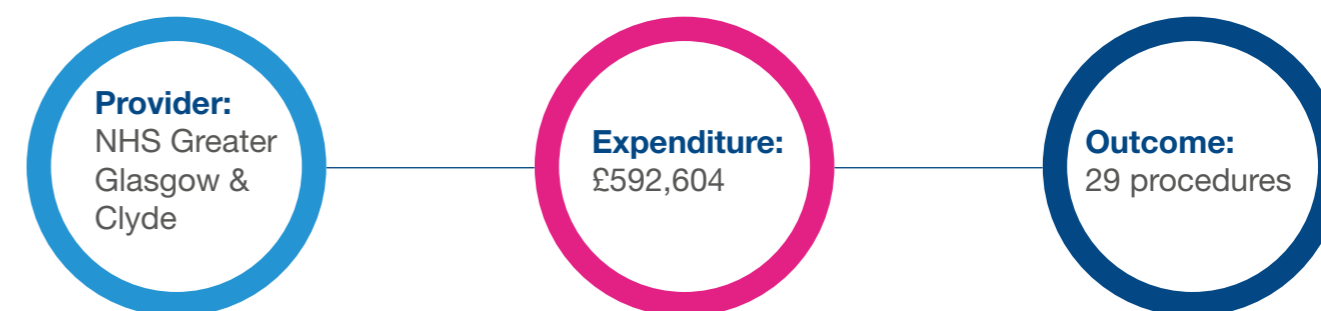
**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/complex-mesh-surgical-service/>

From the late 1990s to 2018 women in Scotland were treated with polypropylene mesh implants for stress urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. Unfortunately, some women develop complications from vaginal mesh surgery and this service is for those considering specialist surgical mesh removal. The Complex Mesh Surgical Service hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GG&C) is the nationally designated centre in Scotland for women with mesh complications. The GG&C service forms part of the UK network of centres and is recognised for its clinical expertise in this field. The service provides multidisciplinary team (MDT) assessment, surgical intervention, post-operative care, post-surgery follow-up. Local health boards provide ongoing management with support from the specialist surgical centre.

## Paediatrics Services



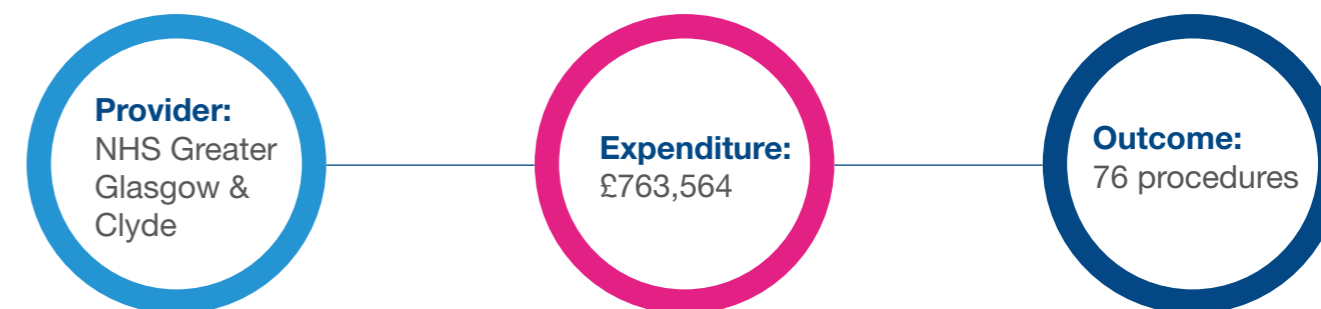
### Chest Wall Deformity



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/chest-wall-deformity-paediatric/>

The Chest Wall Deformity (CWD) Service provides interventions for paediatric and adolescent patients with anterior (front) chest wall deformities. Based at the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, the multi-disciplinary team will assess and offer surgical reconstruction or bracing to patients with pectus excavatum and pectus carinatum or variations, and follow up care.

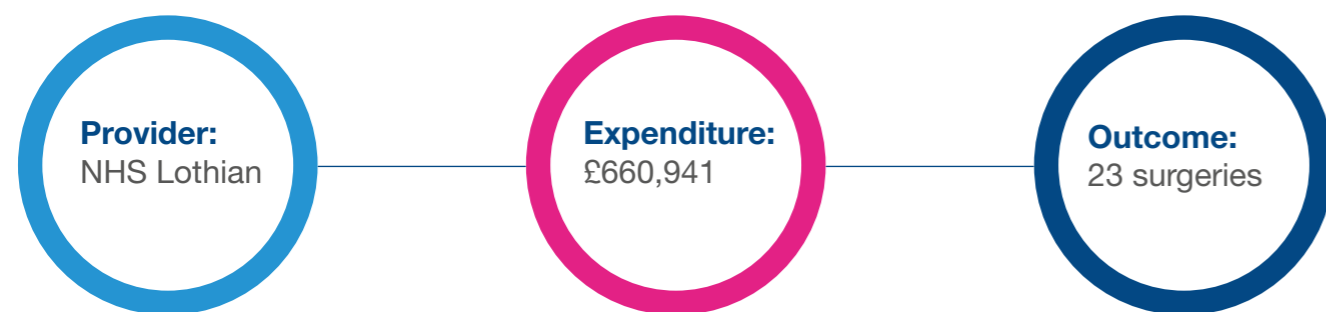
### Complex Paediatric Airway Disorder



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/complex-airways-disorder-paediatric/>

This service provides comprehensive support for the management of children (foremost neonates and infants) with conditions causing obstruction of the major airway. Based at the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, the service provides endoscopic and open surgical interventions for children with complex breathing difficulties.

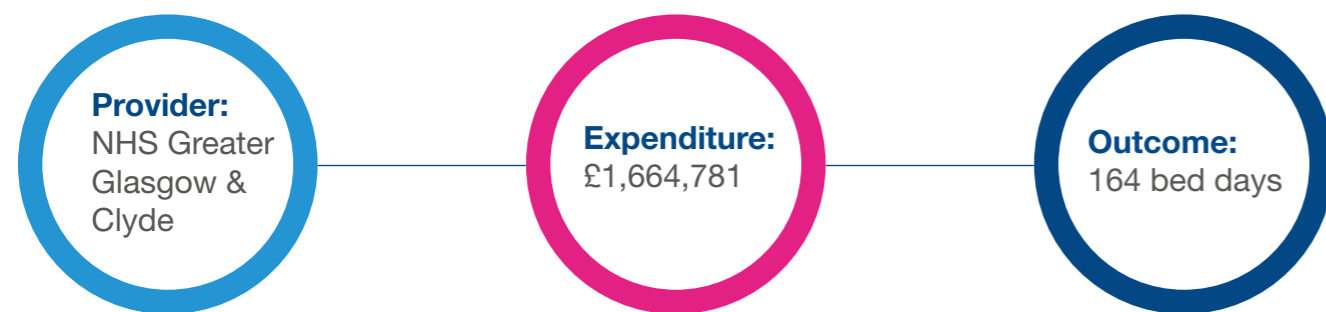
### Epilepsy Surgery



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/epilepsy-surgery-paediatric/>

The Paediatric Epilepsy Surgery Service provides care for children up to the age of 16 with intractable epilepsy. Eligible children and young people will follow the Scottish Paediatric Epilepsy Network's Continuing Epileptic Seizures Care Pathway, before receiving consideration by the national epilepsy team. Based at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, patients who are referred to the service receive care delivered through a network approach.

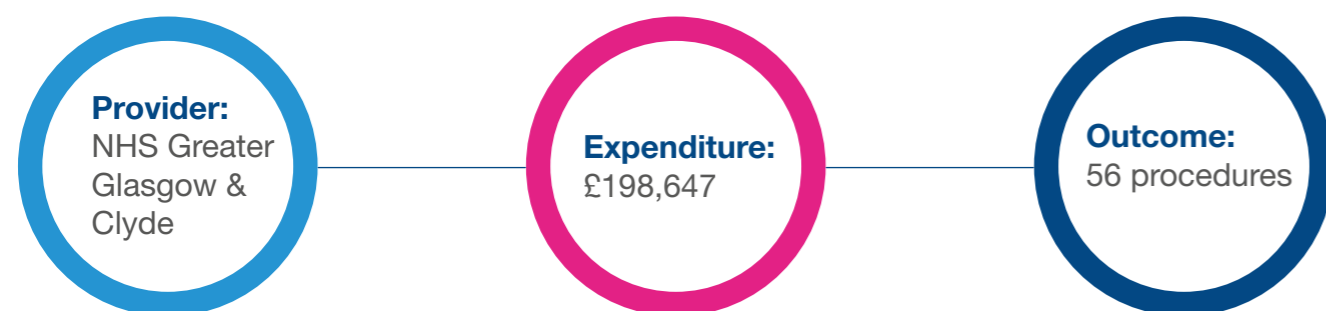
### Extra Corporeal Life Support



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/extra-corporeal-life-support-paediatric/>

The Extra Corporeal Life Support (ECLS) Service is based in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow. ECLS provides temporary life support to children with cardiac or pulmonary failure, while allowing the lungs to rest. Extra-corporeal life support uses extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a supportive intensive care technique offered to children who develop acute but potentially reversible respiratory or cardiac failure.

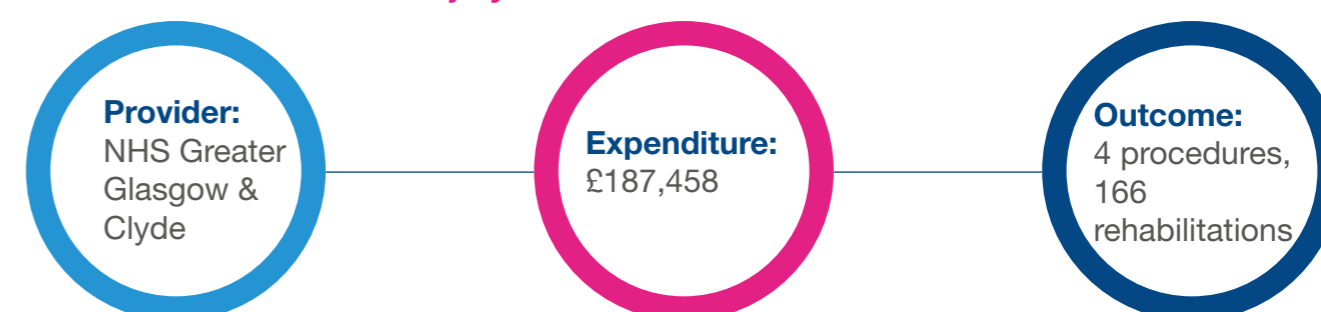
### Interventional Fetal Therapy



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/interventional-fetal-therapy/>

The Interventional Fetal Therapy Service provides treatment for a range of conditions affecting unborn babies. The service is based in the Ian Donald Fetal Medicine Unit at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. Using advanced technical skills and specialist equipment, the service provides high quality diagnosis and treatments to optimise the outcome for both child and parent-to-be.

### Obstetric Brachial Plexus Injury



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/brachial-plexus-injury-paediatric/>

The Obstetric Brachial Plexus Injury Service (OBPIS) assesses, diagnoses and treats young children with an injury to the brachial plexus region. Complications during childbirth commonly cause these injuries. After assessment in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, children usually receive rehabilitation treatment. Occasionally they need specialist shoulder surgery. Ongoing care is also provided. An outreach clinic is available in Aberdeen to facilitate access to the service by patients from remote areas.

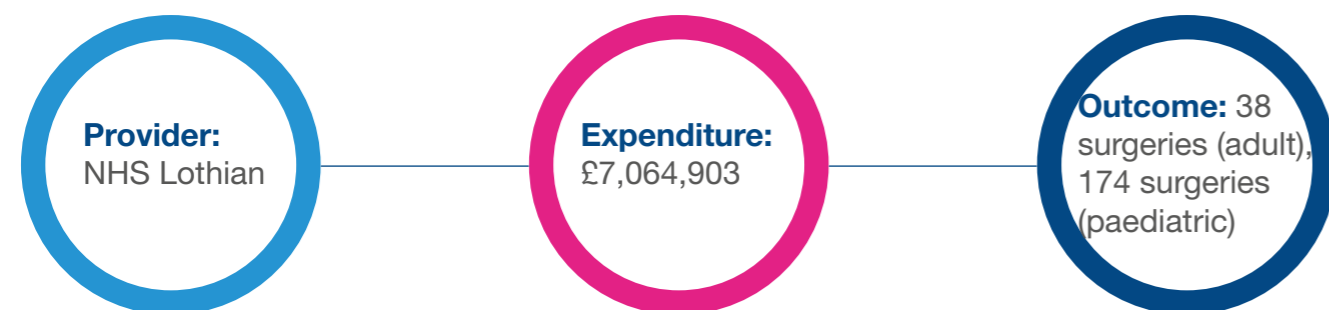
### Paediatric Intensive Care



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/intensive-care-paediatric/>

The Paediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU) supports children and young people with life-threatening conditions. Based within the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, the two PICUs are commissioned as a single service to provide care to the paediatric population. There are 21 beds in Glasgow and 10 beds in Edinburgh. Both units work closely with ScotSTAR, the specialist transport service that includes paediatrics, as well as supporting other national specialist children's services.

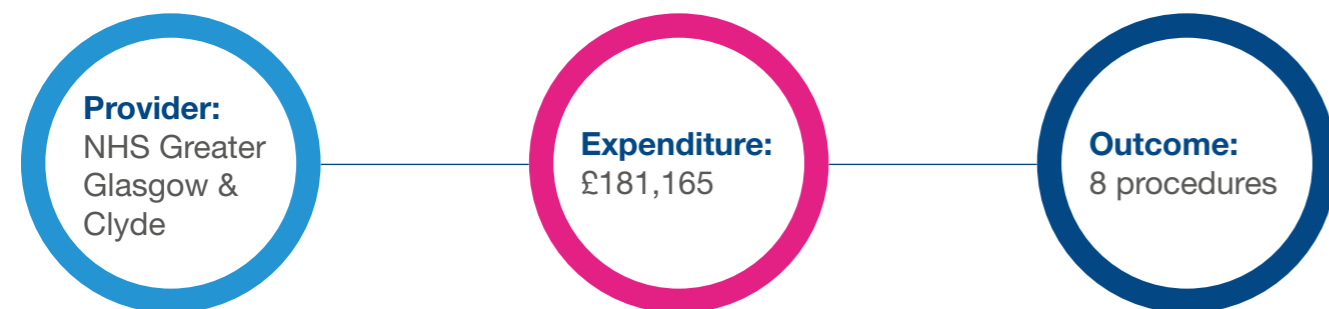
### Scottish National Spine Service (Adults & Paediatrics)



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/scottish-national-spine-service/>

The service provides care for people who have acquired a spinal deformity in childhood or adolescence. Care is provided at both the Royal Infirmary and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. Patients referred to the service will undergo an initial assessment and investigation. Following this, a decision will be made about whether a patient is suitable for orthotics (bracing) or surgery. Reducing spinal curvature and enhancing quality of life are the aims of the treatment.

### Scottish Paediatric Molecular Radiotherapy (SMaRT)



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/scottish-paediatric-molecular-radiotherapy-service/>

The service offers molecular radiotherapy (MRT) for children and young adults up to age 18 with cancer and is based in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. The service treats patients who have been diagnosed with either thyroid carcinoma or high risk neuroblastoma which has relapsed or has failed to respond to other appropriate evidence based treatments for this condition.

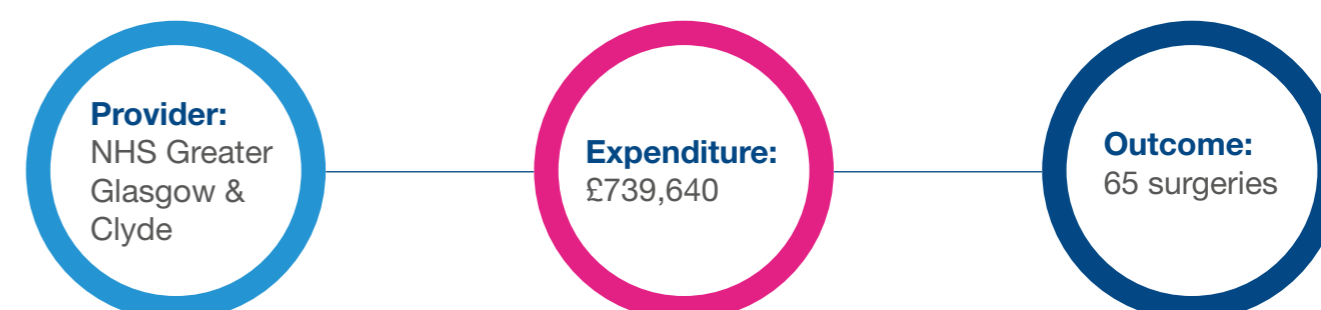
### Transcranial Doppler & MRI Scanning Services



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/transcranial-doppler-and-mri-scanning/>

The service offers transcranial Doppler (TCD) and MRI scanning for children and young people with haemoglobinopathy (blood disorders) and is based in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. TCD is a non-invasive ultrasound method used to examine the blood circulation within the brain. TCD is available to all eligible patients between two and 18 years old. MRI scanning is used to assess iron overload and monitor chelation therapy for children with haemoglobinopathies on transfusion treatment.

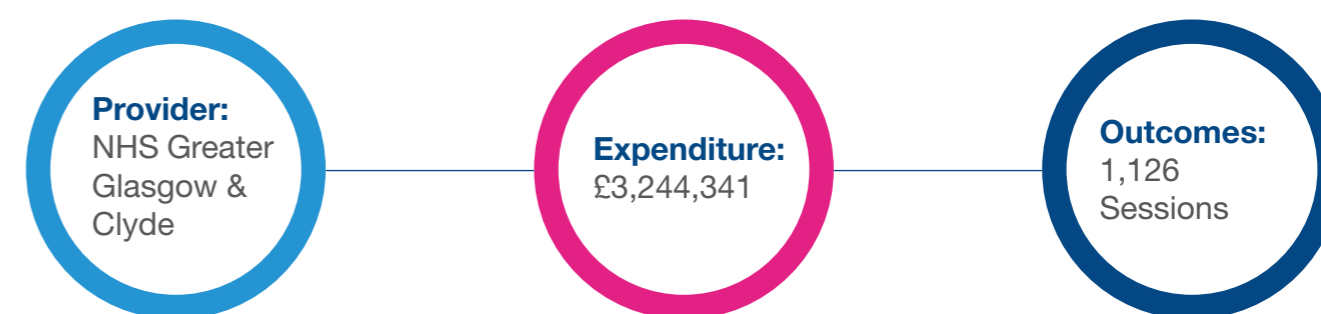
### Craniofacial Surgery



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/craniofacial-service-paediatric/>

The Scottish national craniofacial service is for children and young people up to the age of 16. The service is based at the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow. The service treats paediatric patients from across Scotland with a craniofacial condition resulting from a congenital disease, tumour or trauma. The service provides: multidisciplinary diagnosis, surgery and ongoing care for all syndromic and non-syndromic craniofacial cases that affect both the floor of the skull and the bones and tissue of the face.

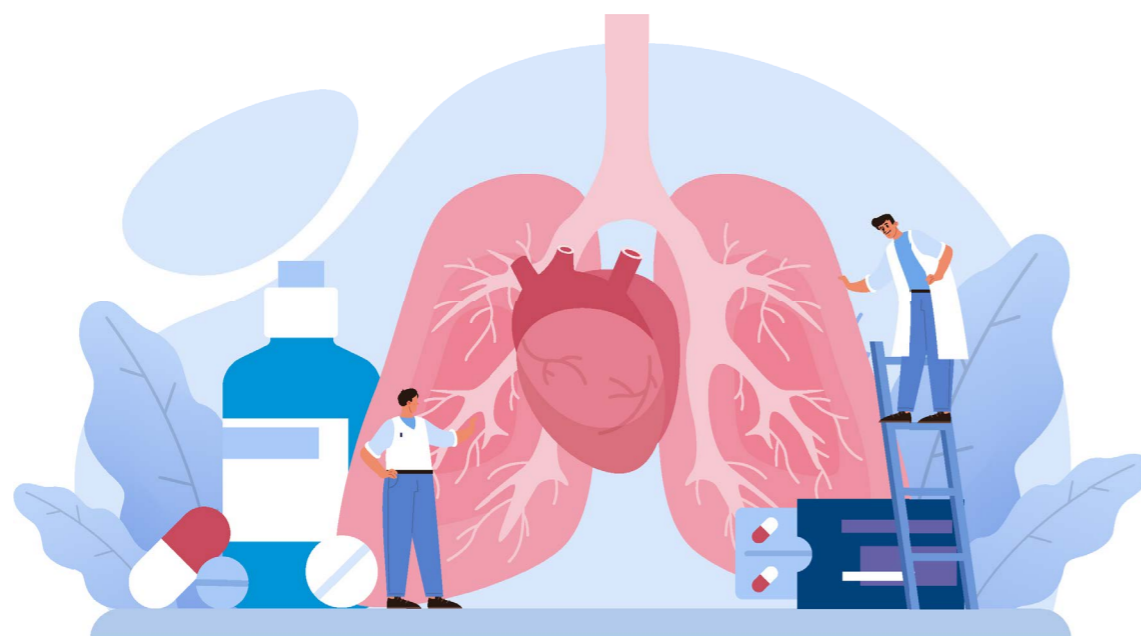
### Paediatric Dialysis



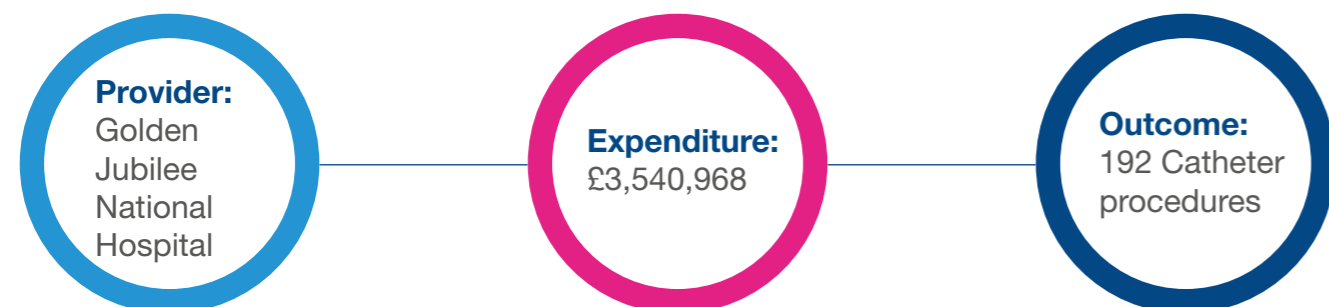
**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/dialysis-paediatric/>

The Paediatric Dialysis Service delivers the renal pathway for haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis alongside specialist care for children with ultra-rare renal diseases/disorders, integrating with the commissioned paediatric renal transplant programme. The aim of the service is to bring together the transplant programme, the paediatric dialysis service and the care of children with highly complex disorders within one overarching seamless pathway.

## Cardiac & Respiratory Services



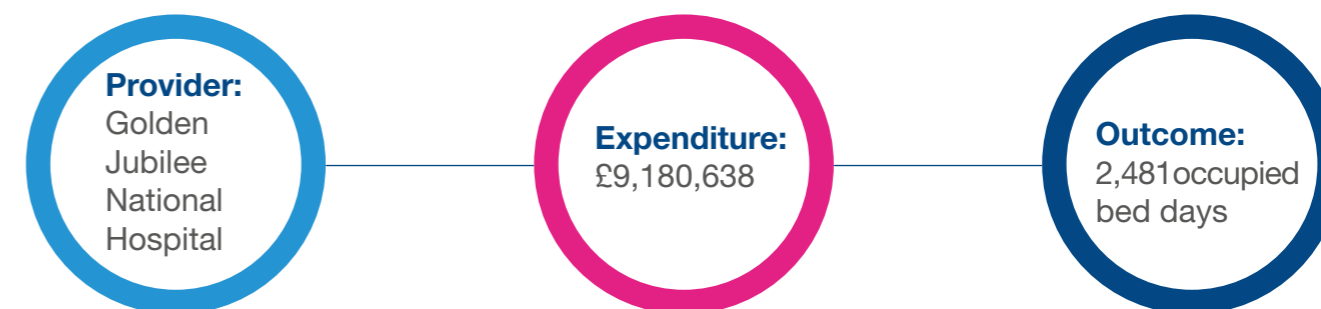
### Adult Congenital Heart Disease



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/congenital-heart-disease-adult/>

The Scottish Adult Congenital Cardiac Service (SACCS) provides care for people aged 16 or over with a diagnosis of congenital complex heart disease. The service is based at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Clydebank and aims to assess all adults with congenital heart disease to improve their life expectancy and quality of life, through safe and effective congenital heart surgery and catheter interventions.

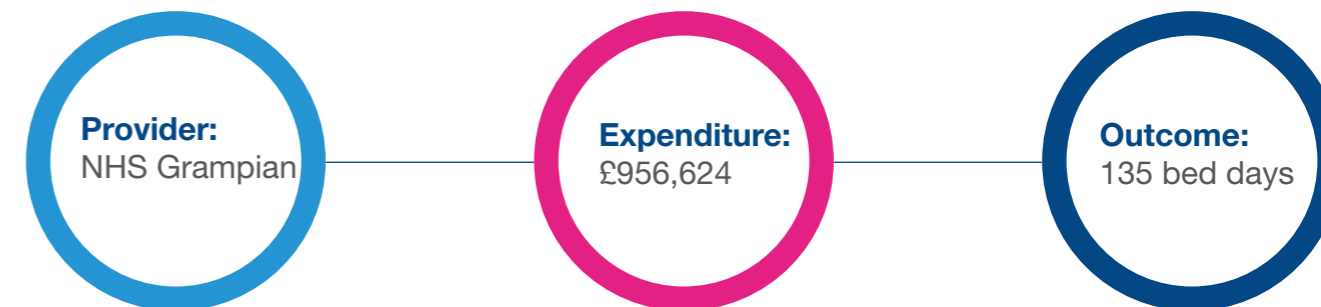
### Pulmonary Vascular Hypertension



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/pulmonary-vascular-hypertension/>

The Pulmonary Vascular Service provides therapeutic benefits to patients with severe pulmonary hypertension. Advice is also given in the treatment of pulmonary hypertension associated with congenital heart disease in children and adults. The service is delivered across two sites: the Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Clydebank and the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. The service provides inpatient assessment, diagnosis, specialised treatment, and outpatient follow up management including emergency inpatient care provision.

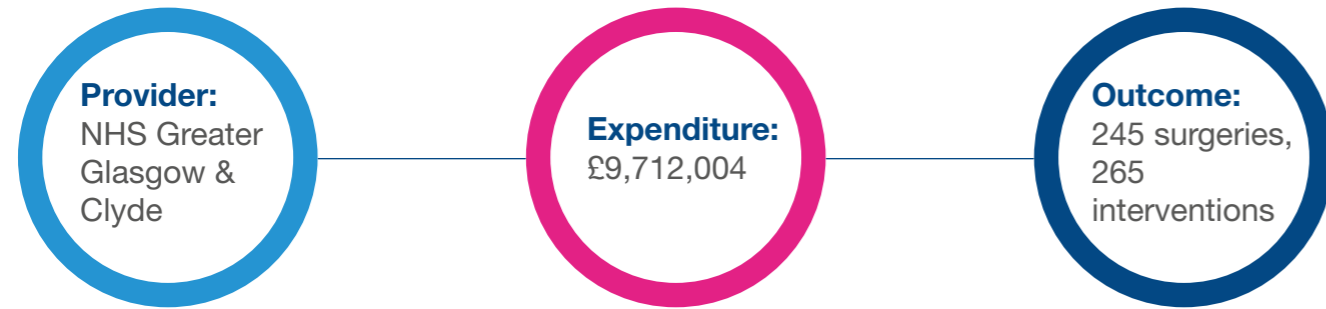
### Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/extracorporeal-membrane-oxygenation-ecmo-service-adult/>

The adult Extra corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Service is based within the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Aberdeen. ECMO provides temporary life support to adults with severe respiratory failure, while allowing the lungs to rest and recover from injury.

### Congenital Heart Disease: Paediatric



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/congenital-heart-disease-paediatric/>

The paediatric cardiac service (PCS) provides care for neonates and children up to the age of 16 years or transition with paediatric cardiac disease (PCD). This service is based in The Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow.

### Percutaneous Mitral Valve & Related Interventions



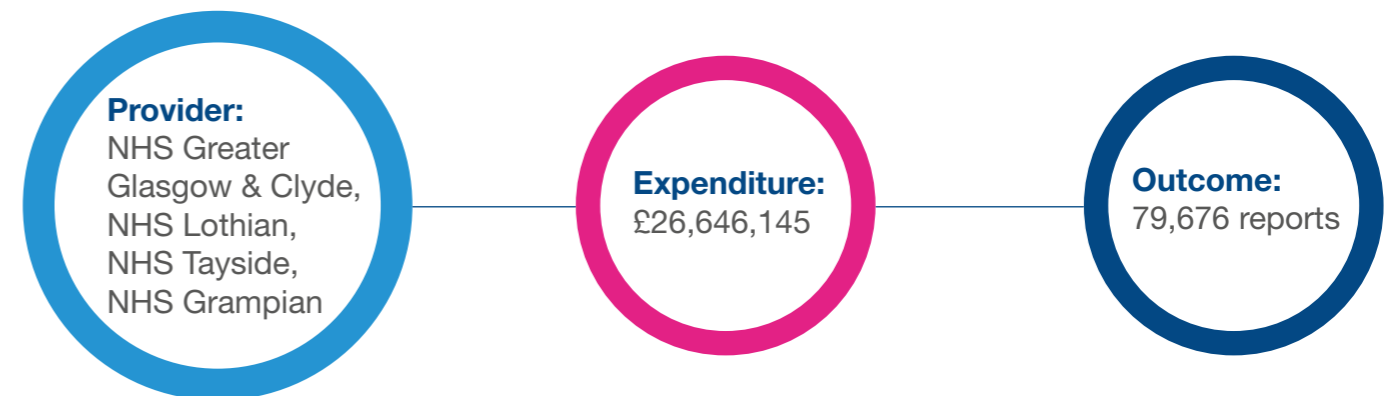
**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/percutaneous-mitral-valve-and-related-interventions/>

The Percutaneous Mitral Valve and Related Interventions Service treat patients with valvular heart disease to improve their symptoms and quality of life, if signs of cardiac failure are identified. Based at the Royal Infirmary Hospital of Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Heart Centre offers three procedures: balloon mitral valvuloplasty, paravalvular leak closure and left atrial appendage occlusion, all minimally invasive. Patients considered to be of high operative risk can receive these procedures in preference to open surgical treatment.

### Diagnostic, Genetics & Specialist Laboratories



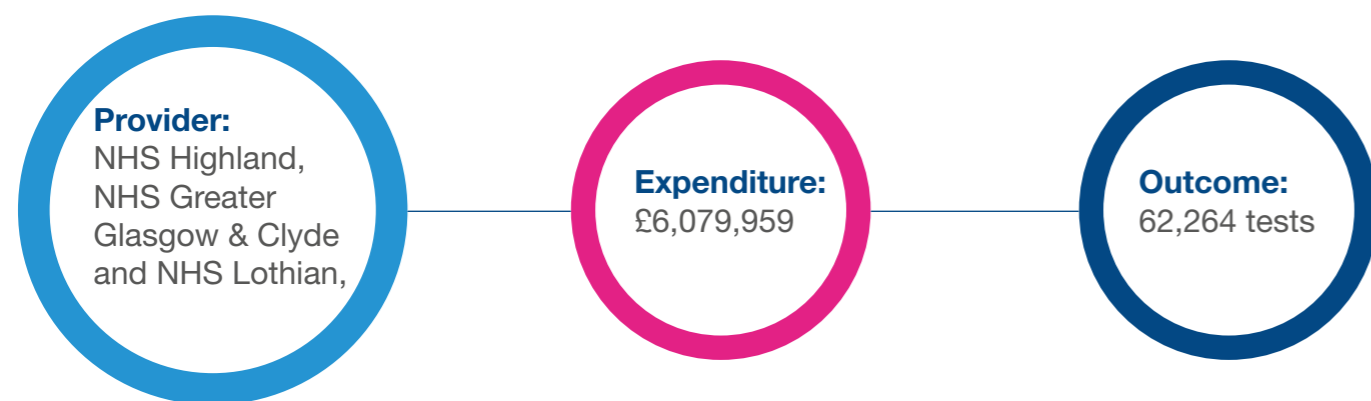
### Genetic & Molecular Pathology Laboratories



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/genetic-and-molecular-pathology-laboratories/>

Genetic testing services are delivered through four regional centres. Each aim to provide equitable, high-quality genetic and molecular pathology testing services for Scotland. The number of conditions which we can test for is increasing. This year has seen a change to how genetic testing in Scotland will be delivered. The Scottish Genomics Strategic Network will develop a Scottish strategy for genomic medicine and agree the translation of that strategy into operational practice ensuring a value-based approach to genetic testing that reflect realistic medicine ambitions.

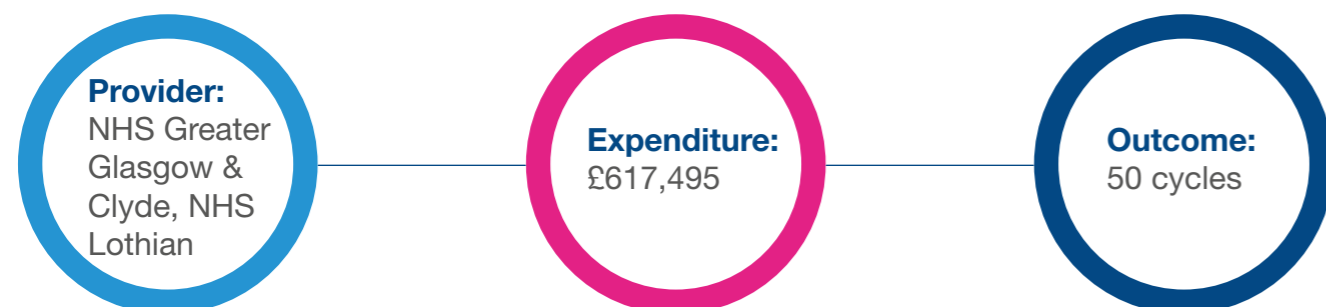
### Microbiology Reference and Specialist Laboratories



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/microbiology-reference-and-specialist-laboratories/>

The Scottish Microbiology Reference and Specialist Laboratories provide support to guide public health responses to communicable (infectious) disease. Each laboratory maintains an archive of samples and contributes to research, quality assurance, audit, and teaching, and offer analytical and advisory services to NHS boards and Public Health Scotland, which collects epidemiological data for public health purposes. Commissioning of 14 microbiology reference and specialist laboratories currently takes place in Scotland across three sites.

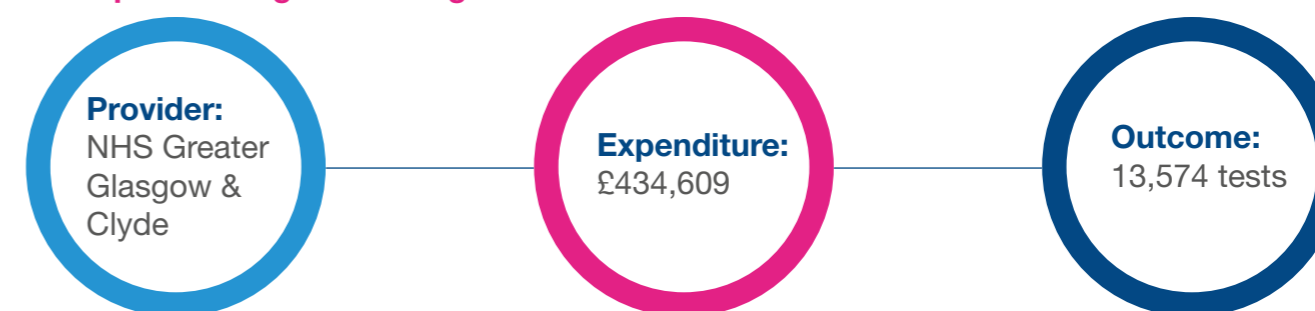
### Pre-Implantation Genetic Diagnosis



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/microbiology-reference-and-specialist-laboratories/>

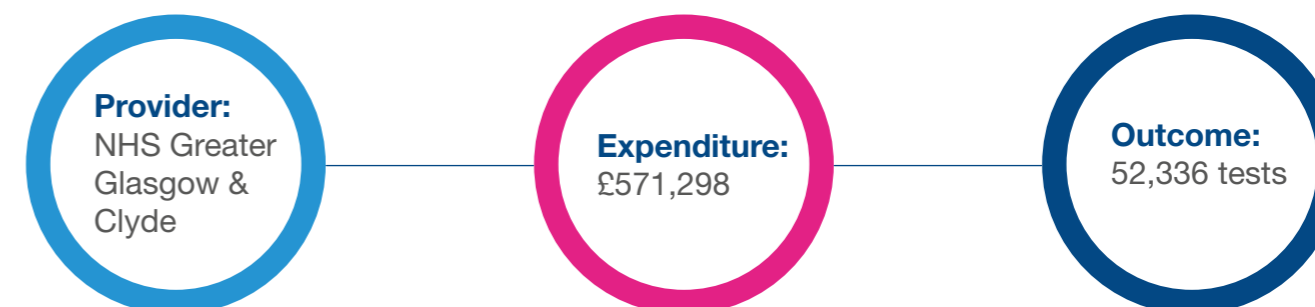
The Scottish Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) Service is for couples at risk of passing on an inherited disorder. It can significantly decrease the risk of having a child affected by a genetic condition. The service is available to residents of Scotland who meet the eligibility criteria for referral. PGT is offered when one or both genetic parents have, or are carriers of, a known genetic abnormality. Testing of the couples' embryos takes place to determine whether an embryo is at risk of a genetic disease, with only low genetic risk embryos transferred back into the uterus.

### Therapeutic Drug Monitoring



The laboratory testing service service delivers Infliximab (IFX) and Adalimumab (ADL) levels and their respective total anti-drug antibodies (ADA) for optimising care predominantly in gastroenterology patients with inflammatory bowel disease. These agents have reduced the morbidity from these inflammatory disorders by targeting a key component of the inflammatory process (TNF alpha). Due to variations between individuals handling of the drug and amount of inflammatory load, the aim is to ensure patients have sufficient drug and limit those who have very high drug levels. By optimising drug dosaging, it has been shown that there is a better long-term outcome.

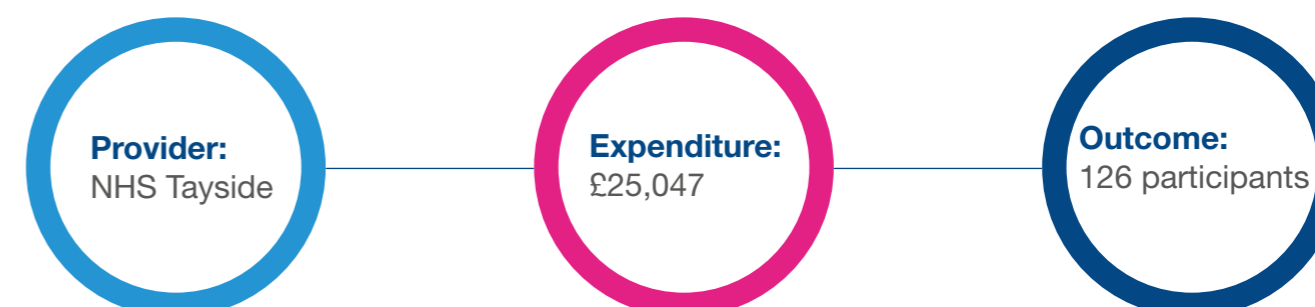
### Trace Element & Micronutrient Diagnostic & Research Laboratory



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/trace-element-and-micronutrient-diagnostic-and-research-laboratory/>

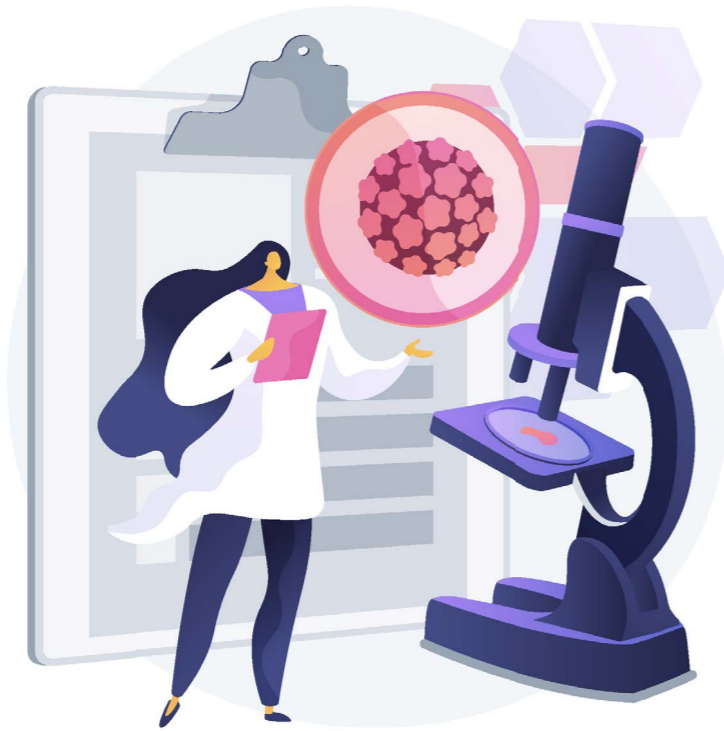
This service specialises in the measurement and interpretation of trace elements and vitamins in clinical samples. The Scottish Trace Element and Micronutrient Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (STEMDRL) is provided by the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The laboratory provides a national analytical and advisory service for a range of nutritional and toxicological problems that involve essential and toxic trace elements and vitamins. STEMDRL also provides a service for the determination of vitamins (A, B1, B2, B6, C, E and K).

### Histopathology EQA Scheme

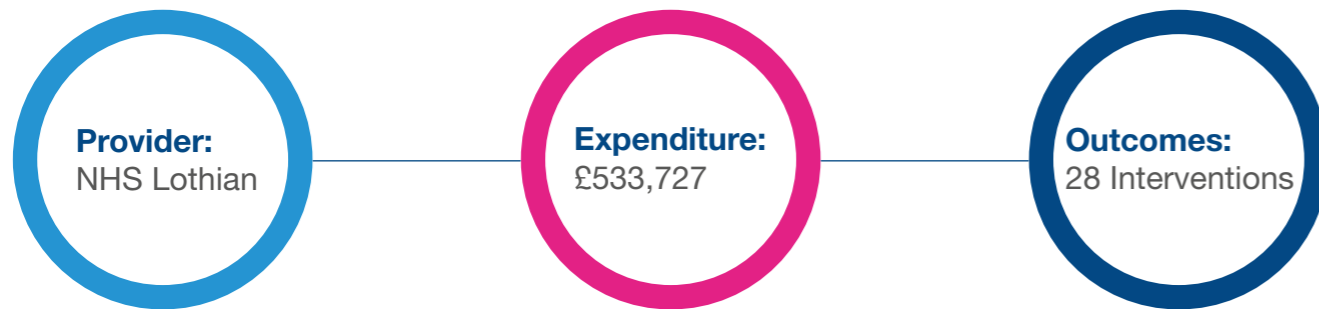


The EQA Scheme was used to maintain and improve diagnostic standards in pathology laboratories. Consultant Pathologists from departments in Scotland and Northern Ireland were assessed bi-annually on their diagnoses of 10 general histopathology slides. Following a review, it was determined that the Histopathology EQA Scheme did not meet the criteria for national designation. As such, it was de-designated in-year and the scheme is now coordinated locally in NHS Lanarkshire.

## Cancer Services



### Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma



The Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma (HC) will support discussion and surgical management of resectable HC which is a bile duct cancer arising at or near the biliary confluence. The primary end point of service is to have successfully carried out curative surgery or complex biliary drainage on the patient.

### Hydatidiform Mole



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/hydatidiform-mole/>

The hydatidiform mole service provides diagnosis, follow up, and support for women with a molar pregnancy. The service is based in the Department of Blood Sciences at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. If it's suspected that a woman has a hydatidiform mole, a referral is made to the service to confirm the diagnosis. If the test result is positive, the patient is enrolled in the laboratory follow up programme. This allows for early identification of the signs of persistent trophoblastic disease (PTD) or the development of choriocarcinoma. The Dundee team coordinates this care and provides ongoing follow-up and support.

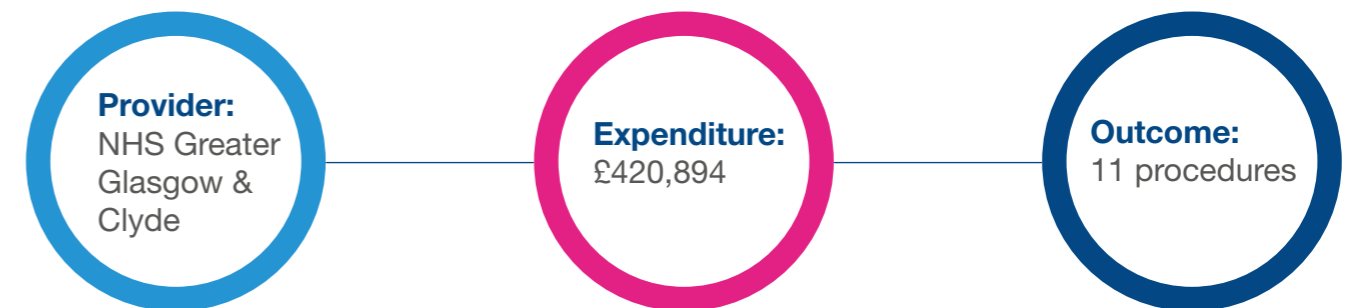
### Ophthalmic Oncology



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/ophthalmic-oncology/>

The Scottish Ophthalmic Oncology Service provides a comprehensive service for both intra and extra ocular tumours for the adult population of Scotland. Based at the Department of Ophthalmology, Gartnavel General Hospital, the service provides diagnosis and management of malignant tumours or suspected tumours of the eye and adnexal structures in adults, where specialist knowledge is required. Review and treatment for children and young people is restricted to exceptional circumstances.

### Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/retroperitoneal-lymph-node-dissection/>

The Retroperitoneal Lymph Node Dissection service is a highly specialist surgical procedure designed to remove the residual lymph nodes at the back of the abdomen as part of the treatment for individuals with metastatic germ cell cancer. Most patients will be men with testicular cancer. Patients are referred into the supra-regional testicular cancer MDT based at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre (WOSCC).

# Financial Risk Share

We manage several national financial risk share schemes on behalf of NHSS Boards. These allow NHSScotland to pool funding across the country, so that boards can share the financial impact of any unpredictable expenditure, in respect of the treatment, for very rare conditions that may require a high-cost intervention.

Every NHSScotland board contributes to cover the cost of access to an agreed list of specialist treatments. The range covered by these arrangements is reviewed by NHSScotland boards annually. Without these schemes an individual health board could face significant financial risk. The risk share schemes provide assurance to patients with very rare conditions that NHSScotland will cover the costs of their treatment or care.

The following risk share schemes were in operation in 2022/2023:

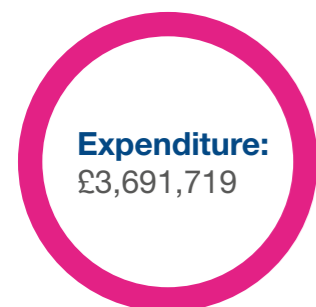
## Inherited bleeding disorders



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/financial-risk-share/inherited-bleeding-disorders/>

Recombinant Blood Products: This scheme pools funds for blood clotting concentrates and drugs for people with haemophilia and rare bleeding disorders living in Scotland. People who receive products from the scheme will be registered with one of five haemophilia centres. For several years the cost of recombinant product has reduced. This related to the reduction of price of products and introduction of a new drug for patients with inhibitors. Over the past year there has been an emerging increase in usage due to procedures which were delayed during the pandemic and the increased prescription of a new drug.

## Forensic medium-secure care for patients with learning disabilities



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/financial-risk-share/forensic-medium-secure-care-for-patients-with-learning-disabilities/>

When receiving treatment, some adults with learning difficulties require a level of security. The centre at Rowanbank Clinic is hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. It provides specialist, medium secure care for 12 patients with learning disabilities accommodating up to eight male and four female patients. There is also provision to access additional beds from NHS providers in England if required.

## Inherited Metabolic Disorders



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/financial-risk-share/inherited-metabolic-disorders/>

NHS boards pool funds to meet the costs for a small number of orphan drugs that are used to treat extremely rare diseases that are chronically debilitating or life-threatening. The majority of drugs the scheme covers are for people with inherited metabolic disorders. Numbers of patients on Orphan Drugs, to treat inherited metabolic disease, has risen significantly over the last 10 years. This is due to improved diagnosis of Fabry's disease and the growth in the cohort of patients with this disease and other rare metabolic disorders.

## Lutathera for Neuroendocrine Tumours



Lutathera therapy treatment for neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) is provided at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow. The service provides in-patient and follow-up treatment to people with small bowel NETs that are somatostatin receptor (SSR) positive. Lutathera therapy slows down the growth of tumours, or prevents them from growing altogether. After each treatment, a post-therapy nuclear medicine scan assesses distribution of the Lutathera. Follow-up care will continue to be provided jointly by the patient's local team and the national service.

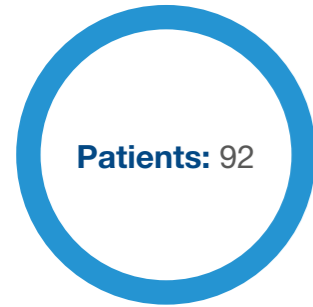
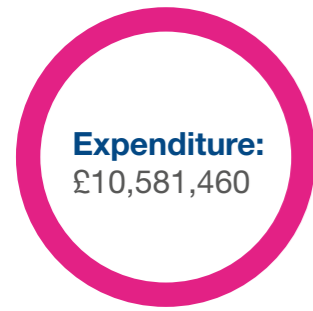
## UK Specialist Services



We meet the costs of specialist patient treatment outside of Scotland, on behalf of NHS boards. Decisions about treatment for any patient referred to a service outside Scotland are made by relevant specialists and the patient's local NHS board. Any request for funding must show that the referral is to access a proven, evidence-based, specialist intervention that's not available elsewhere in NHSScotland.



## Ultra-orphan drugs



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/financial-risk-share/ultra-orphan-medicines/>

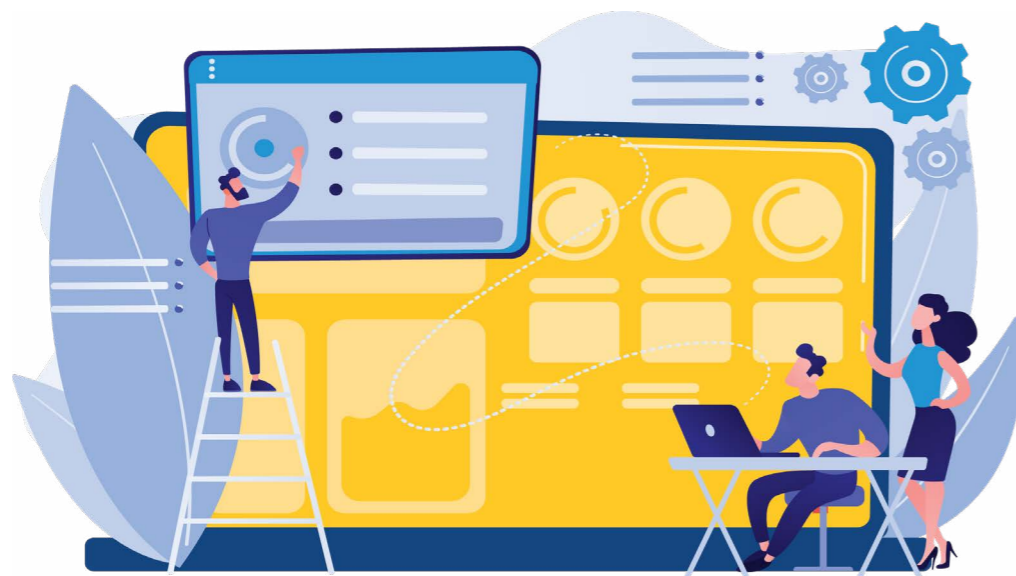
Ultra-Orphan Drug Risk Share provides funding for medicines that have approval via the ultra-orphan medicines pathway and a small number of medicines for extremely rare conditions that have been accepted by SMC outside the new ultra-orphan process. This scheme pools funds from all of Scotland's health boards.

## CAR-T Therapy



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/car-t-therapy-service-adult/>

CAR-T therapy is an advanced therapy medicinal product (ATMP) where a patient's own immune cells are genetically modified to specifically target tumour cells, thereby developing a potent and highly focused immune response to eradicate malignant cells. The CAR-T clinical service for adults in Scotland is integrated with the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Adult Stem Cell Transplantation unit, which also delivers the nationally designated allogeneic stem cell transplantation service for adults.



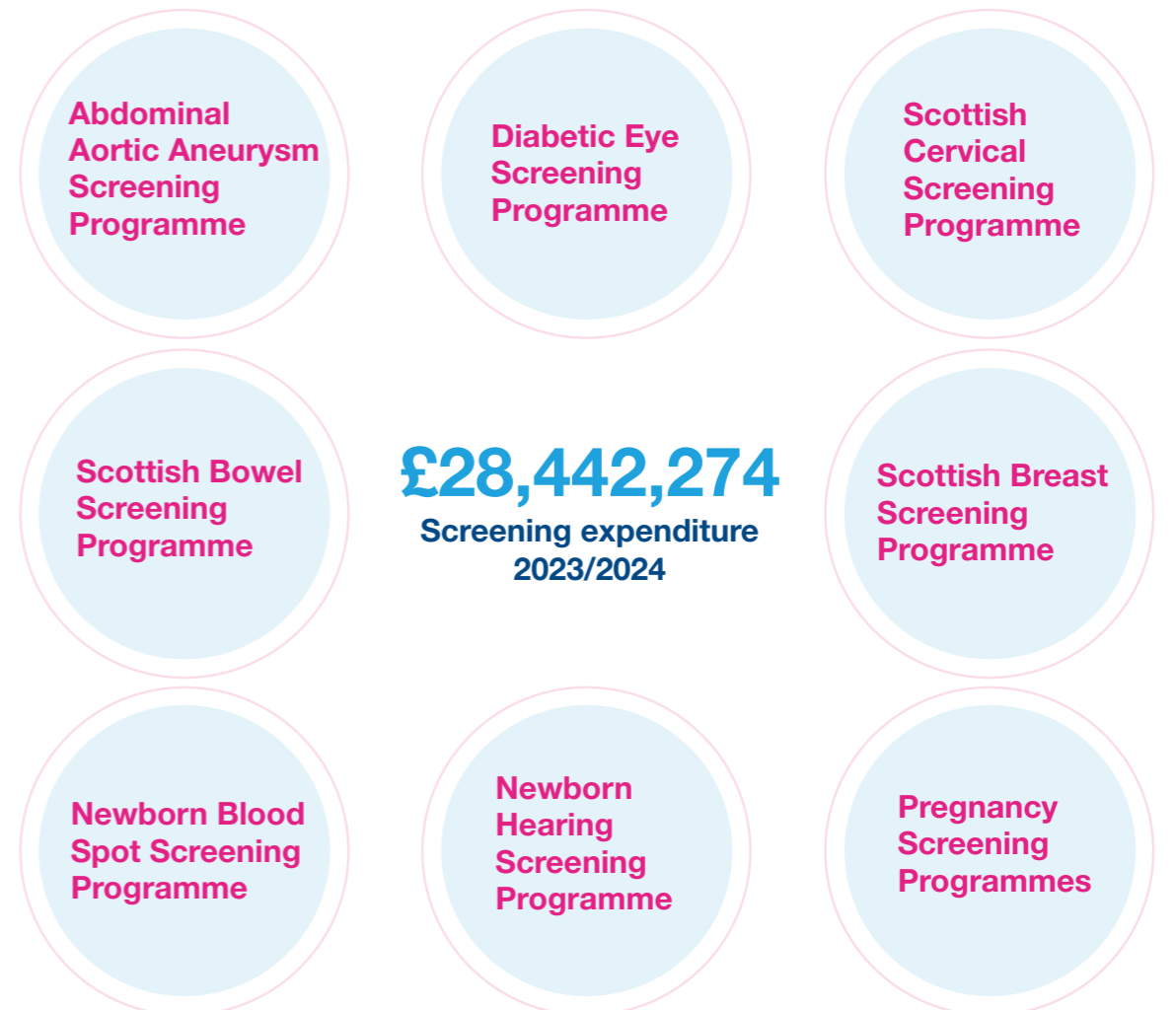
# Population Screening

Screening programmes aim to detect early signs of disease or a condition in the population and offer a reliable pathway to referral for diagnostic testing and further treatment. Screening policy is set by the Scottish Government Health Directorates on the advice of the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) and other appropriate bodies.

For a screening programme to be considered as a population-based programme, it must be acceptably accurate and designed to test for a disease or condition where earlier detection and intervention would be of benefit to the patient and where the screening test does not cause unacceptable harm

NSD is responsible for the national co-ordination of all eight national screening programmes across Scotland. This role aims to ensure consistency in the governance structures and processes across all screening programmes and NSD plays a key role in facilitating the governance groups that provide oversight and assurance of the Programmes, including the Programme Boards, NHS boards and national multidisciplinary groups, to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the screening programmes. National programme statistics, which includes information on screening uptake and key performance indicators is published by Public Health Scotland: <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/?ic=topics-screening&q=screening&fq=topics%3AScreening%23&sort=pdesc>

In addition to the national coordination function for the population screening programmes, NSD is also responsible for commissioning national elements within six of the national programmes (detailed below).



## Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Programme

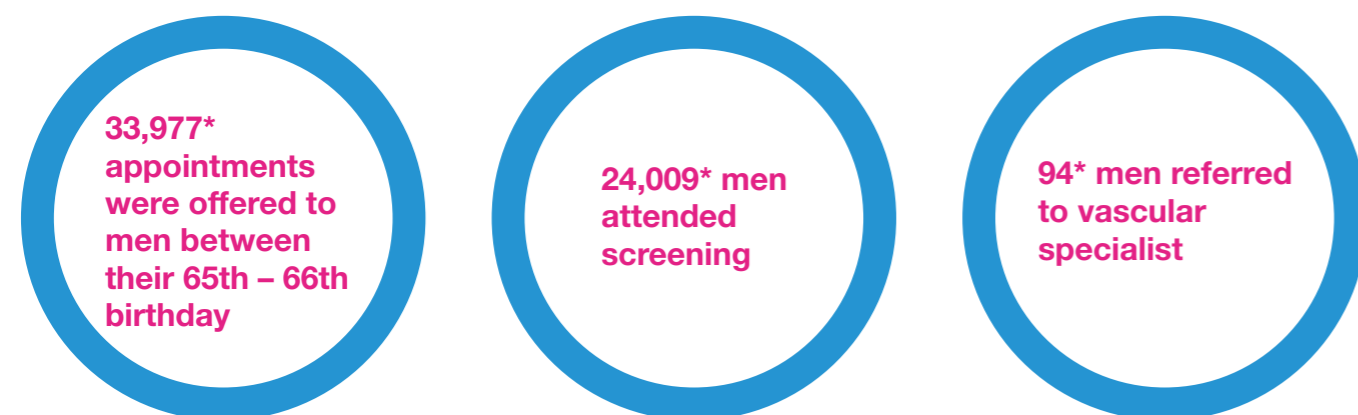
### National coordination:

The aim of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening is to detect aneurysms (bulges in blood vessels) early and monitor or treat them, to avoid the risk of rupture. The programme offers screening to all men in their 65th year, where around one in every 65 men will have an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Older men can opt into the programme and request screening through their local screening centre.

**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/abdominal-aortic-aneurysm-aaa-screening/>

NSD provides the national coordination for this programme and oversees the monitoring of individuals found to have an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

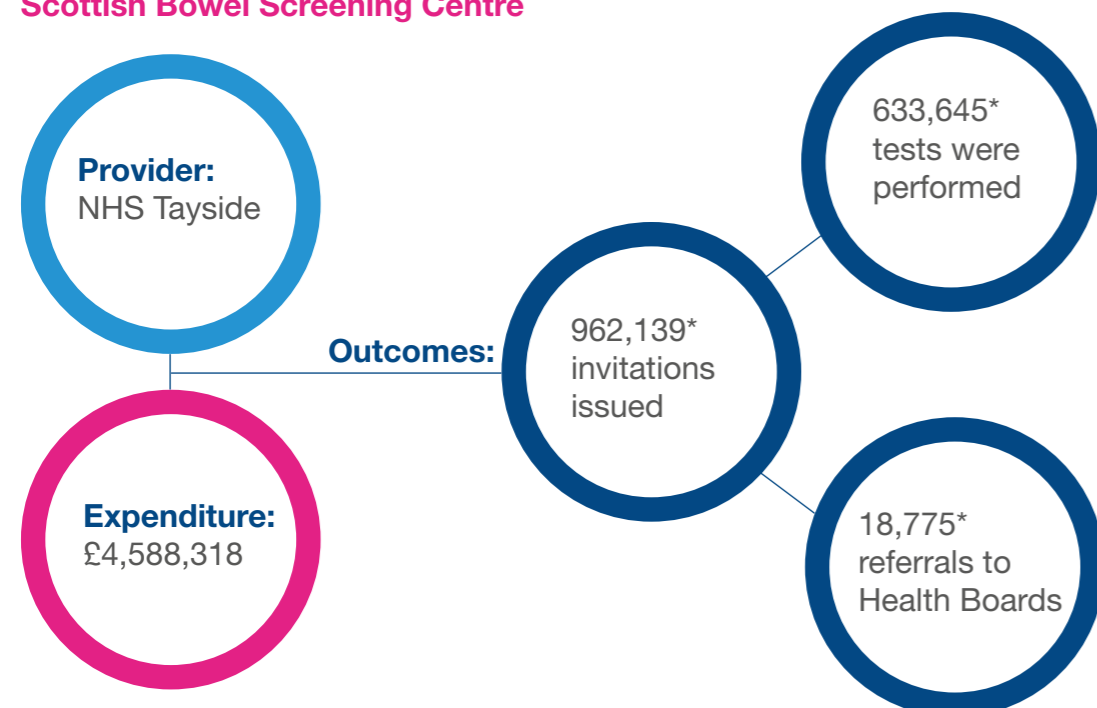
### In 2023/24 the Screening Programme's activity was:



\*Please note this is based on management information and not nationally published screening data

## Scottish Bowel Screening Programme

### Scottish Bowel Screening Centre



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/bowel-screening/>

\*Please note this is based on management information and not nationally published screening data

The Scottish Bowel Screening Programme issues bowel screening kits to all eligible men and women aged 50 to 74 years of age across Scotland, and for those over 75 years who self-refer into the programme. Located in Dundee, the Bowel Screening Centre provides a call-recall office, helpline, and laboratory which receives, and analyses all returned kits. If the test indicates the individual requires further investigation, participants are referred via the Bowel Screening IT System (BoSS) to the relevant local colorectal cancer service.

## Scottish Breast Screening Programme

The Scottish Breast Screening Programme (SBSB) is nationally commissioned through six NHS boards. Invitations are issued to local eligible populations to attend one of the six breast screening centres or a mobile unit, within the local area to ensure equity of access in both urban and rural areas of Scotland.

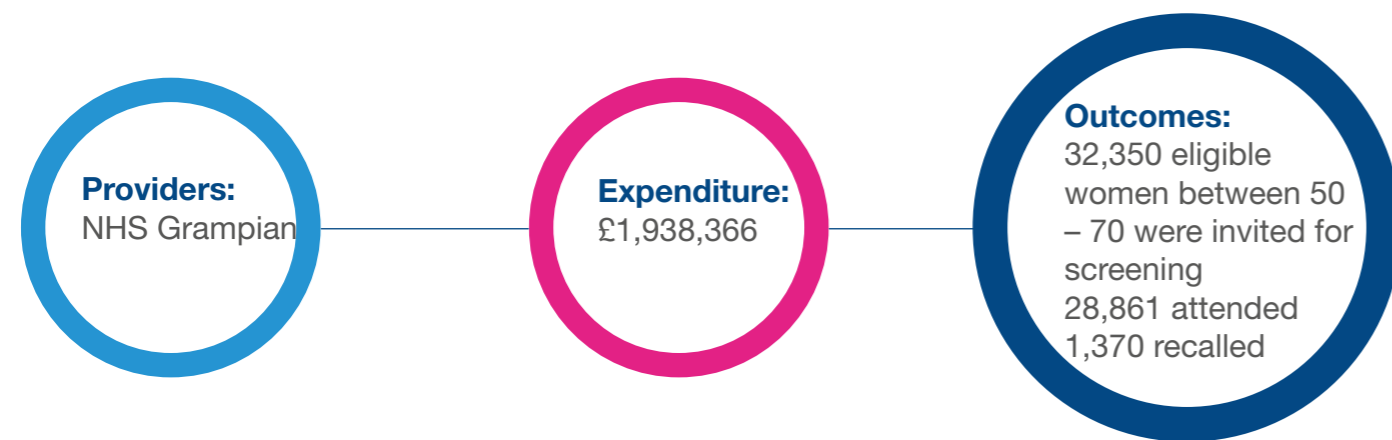
### East of Scotland Breast Screening Programme



### North of Scotland Breast Screening Programme



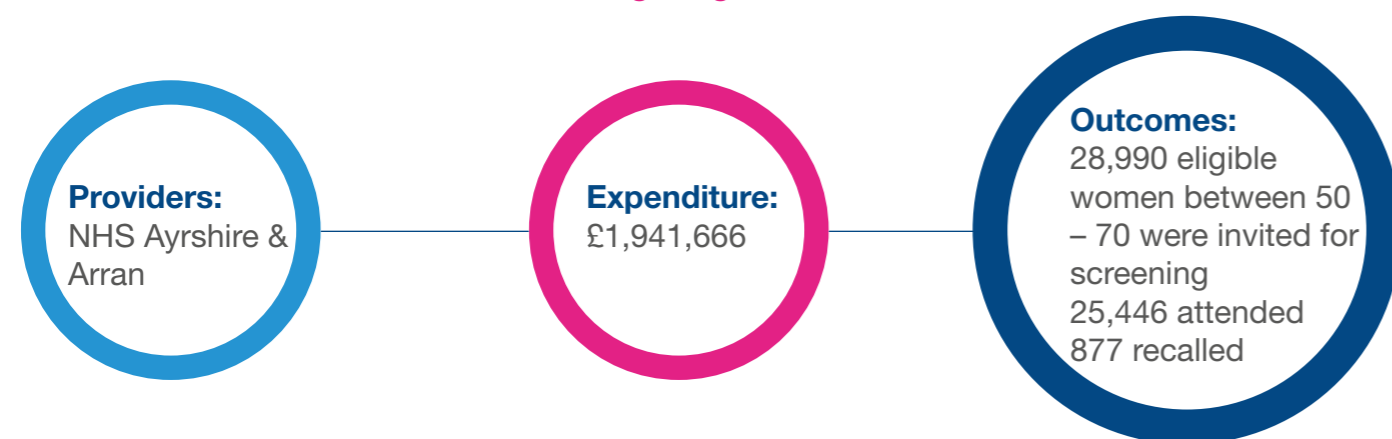
### North East of Scotland Breast Screening Programme



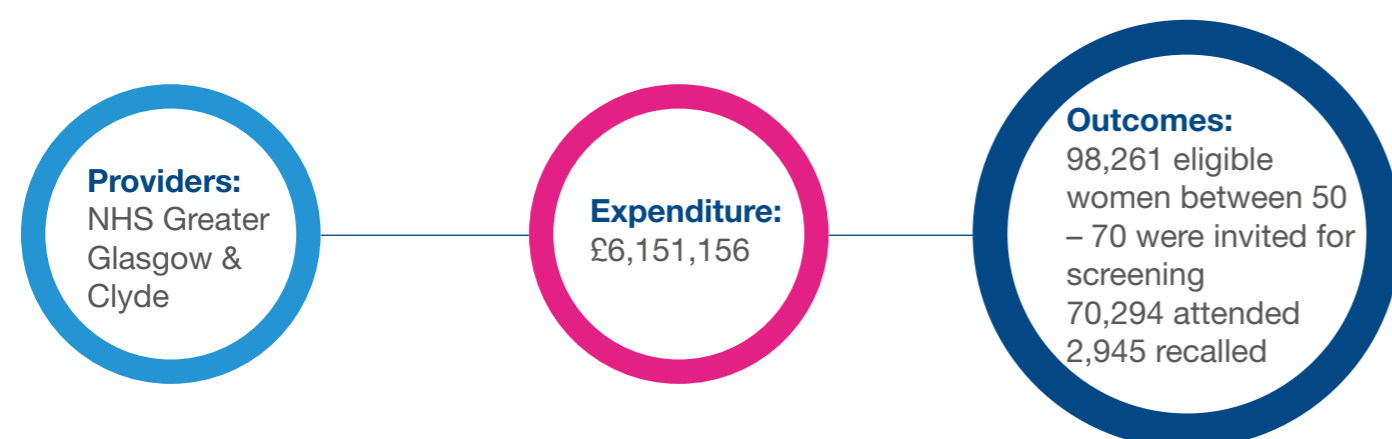
### South East of Scotland Breast Screening Programme



### South West of Scotland Breast Screening Programme



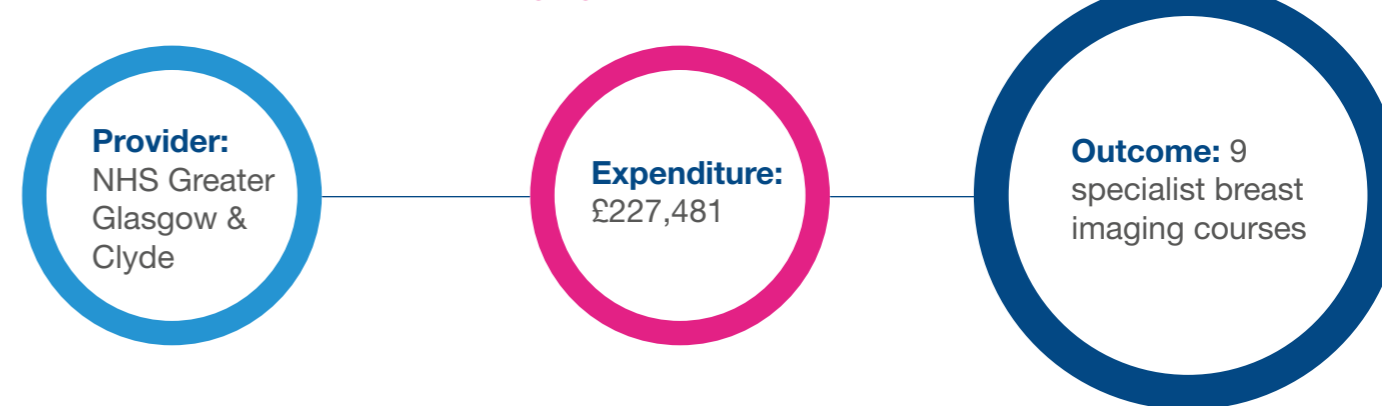
### West of Scotland Breast Screening Programme



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/breast-screening/>

Breast screening is offered to women between the ages of 50-70 on a 3 yearly interval. It aims to identify a breast cancer when it's too small to see or feel. It involves having an x-ray of the breast, called a mammogram. Screening is the best way to detect breast cancer early. Breast screening does not prevent breast cancer, but it can increase survival rates.

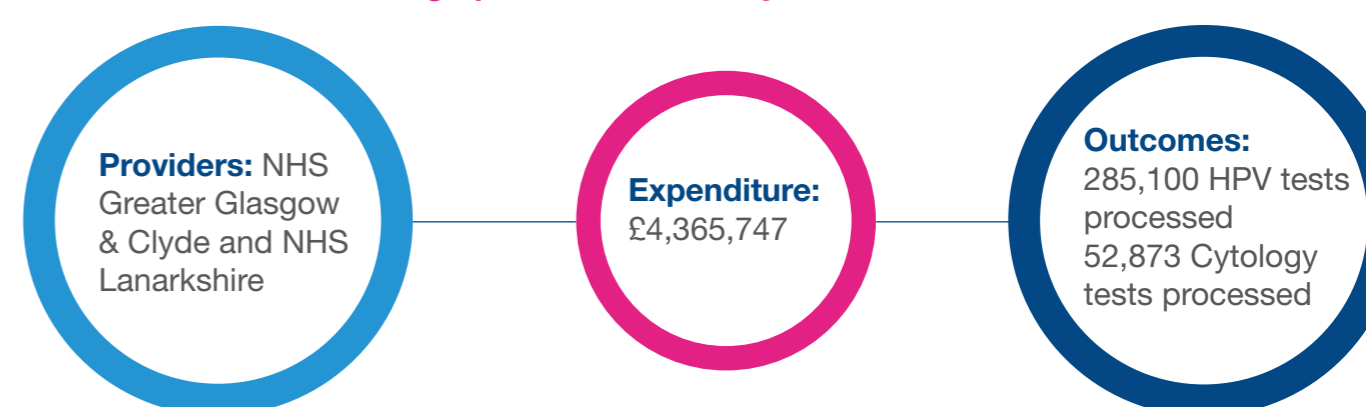
### Scottish Academy of Breast Imaging



The Scottish Academy for Breast Imaging (SABI) is situated within the West of Scotland Breast Screening Centre (WoSBSC), training is delivered on two sites; WoSBSC and in South East Scotland Breast Screening Centre in Edinburgh. SABI provides training for staff employed in NHS Scotland Breast Screening Programme, for wider Radiology department needs regarding the symptomatic breast service in Scotland and further afield and the private sector. Students attend from throughout the UK and Ireland.

### Scottish Cervical Screening Programme

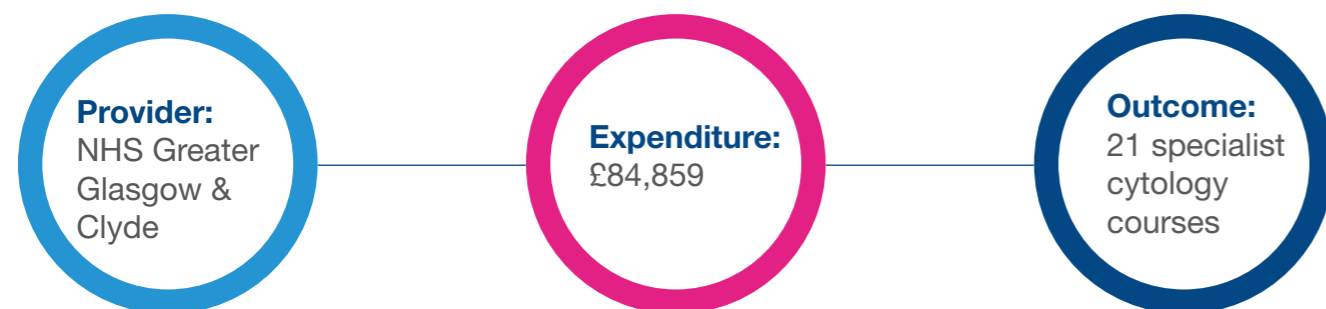
#### Scottish Cervical Screening Specialist Laboratory Service



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/cervical-screening/>

Cervical screening is routinely offered to all individuals with a cervix between the ages of 25 – 64, every 5 years. It has proven to be an effective method of reducing the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer. The primary test (for Human Papilloma Virus) is designed to pick up any changes so that they can be simply and effectively monitored or treated. Without treatment the changes can sometimes develop into cervical cancer. Screening invitations are issued by NHS boards to their local eligible population and all tests are processed by the two nationally commissioned laboratories.

## Cervical Cytology Training School

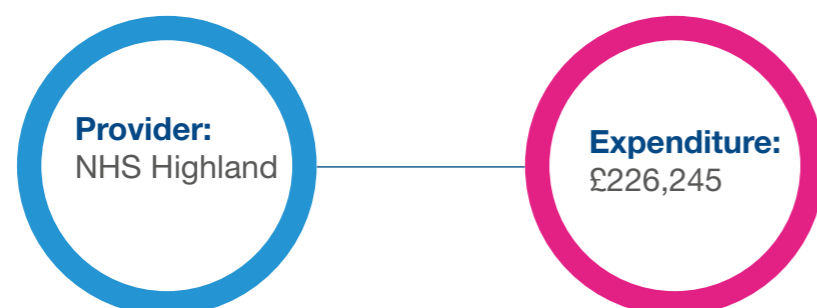


**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/specialist-services/cervical-cytology-training-school/>

The Cervical Cytology Training School delivers specialist courses to train and provide continuing professional development for staff who deliver cervical cytology screening as part of the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme.

## Diabetic Eye Screening Programme

### Diabetic Eye Screening Collaborative

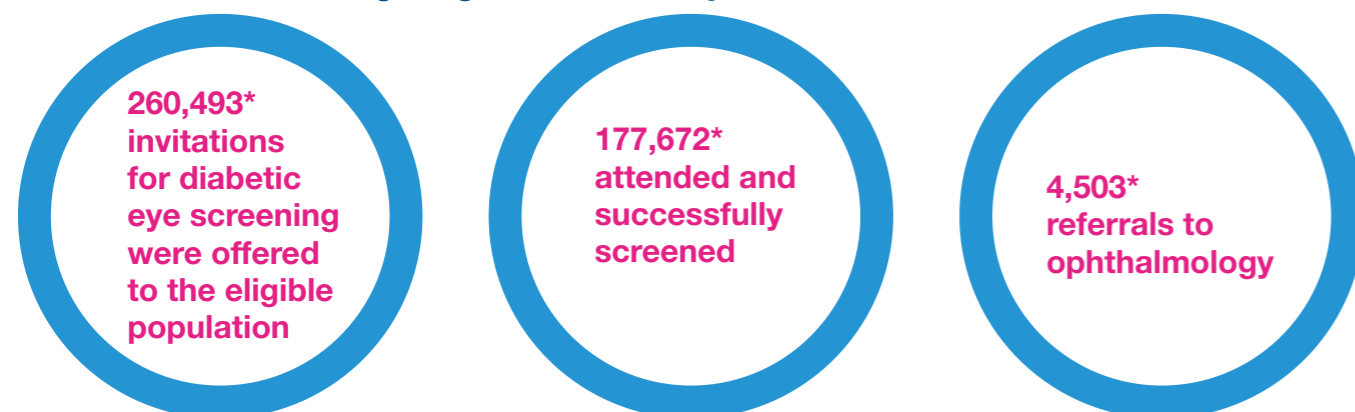


**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/diabetic-eye-screening-des/>

The Diabetic Eye Screening (DES) Programme aims to reduce the risk of sight loss for people with diabetes through early detection, appropriate monitoring, and referral for treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Screening is offered annually to anyone with diabetes from the age of 12.

NSD commissions the DES Collaborative through NHS Highland, which employs the team to provide national support to the NHS boards who deliver the DES programme.

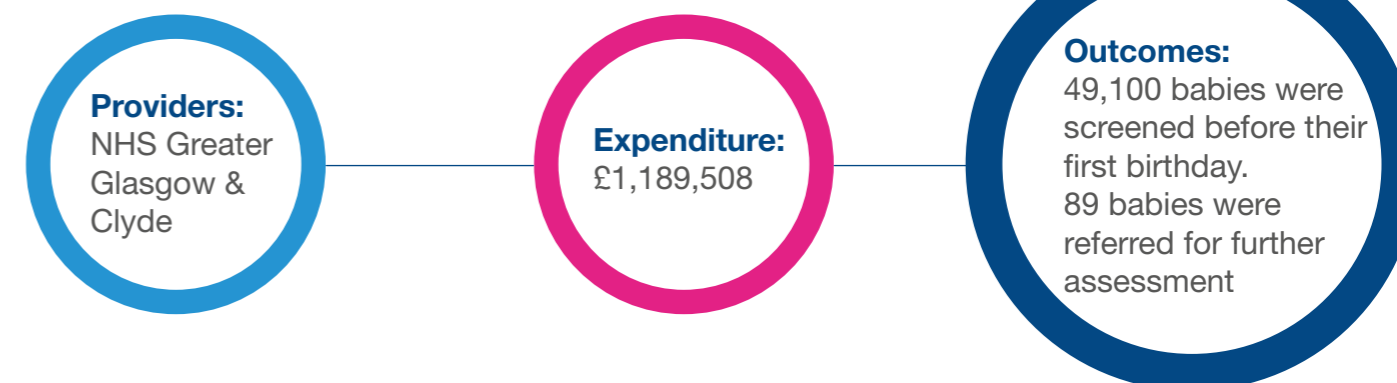
### In 2022/23 the Screening Programme's activity was:



\*Please note this is based on management information and not nationally published screening data

## Newborn Blood Spot Screening Programme

### Newborn Bloodspot Screening Laboratory



**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/newborn-blood-spot-screening/>

Every baby is offered newborn blood spot screening, which is also known as the heel prick test. Ideally this occurs between 96 to 120 hours of life (or four to five completed days). Day of birth is day zero.

Newborn blood spot screening involves local midwives taking a blood sample from the baby's heel to find out if the baby has one of nine rare but serious health conditions. The sample is sent to the national laboratory for testing.

## Newborn Hearing Screening Programme

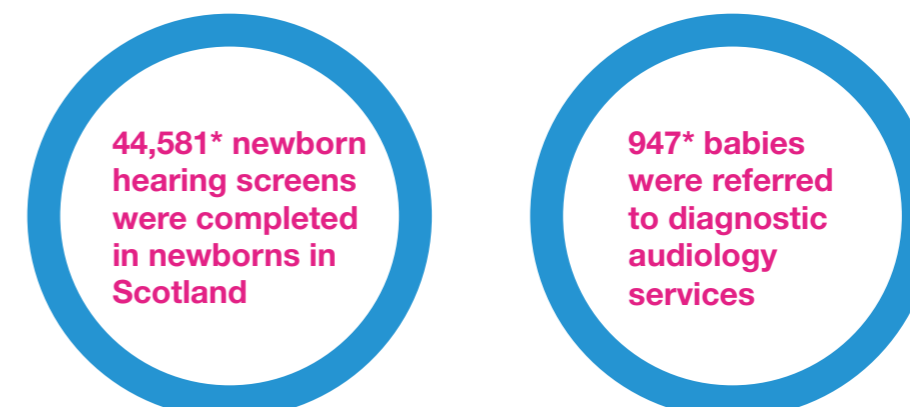
### National coordination:

NSD provides the national coordination for this programme and supports the local audiology departments who provide the screening within each NHS board.

**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/newborn-hearing-screening/>

The aim of the newborn hearing screening programme is to identify all children born with moderate to profound deafness. This test is normally offered to all babies within the first few weeks of life. The programme supports appropriate assessment and help for children and their families.

### Between January-December 2022 the Screening Programme's activity was:



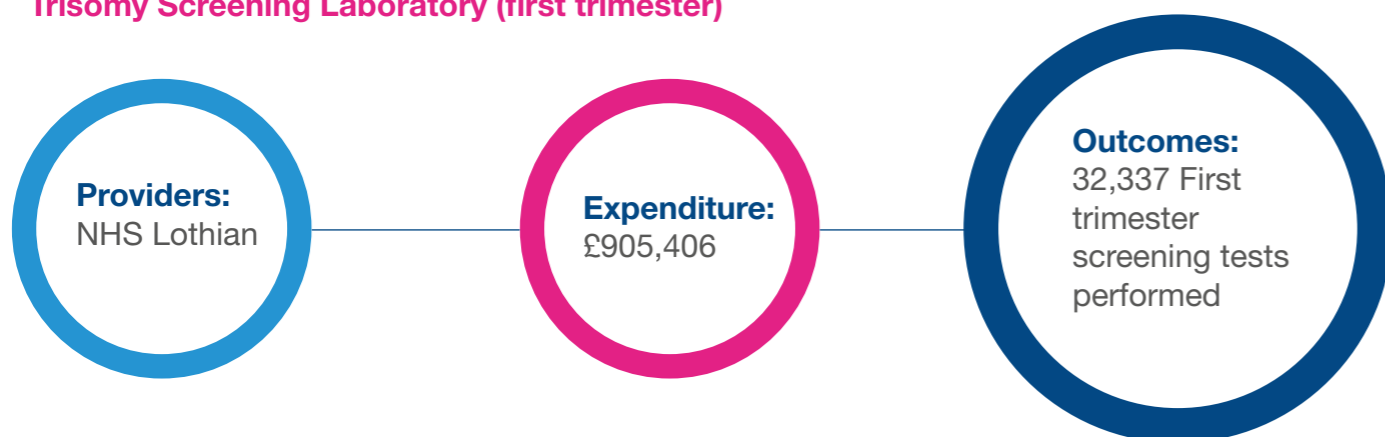
\*Please note this is based on management information and not verified data

## Pregnancy Screening Programmes

**Website:** <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/specialist-healthcare/screening-programmes/pregnancy-screening/>

NSD commissions two laboratories to provide trisomy screening, these tests screen for some trisomy chromosome conditions, the first trimester combined test is offered to screen for Down's syndrome, Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome. The gestational range for first trimester screening is 11 weeks+ 2 days to 14 weeks+ 1 day and the gestational range for second trimester Down's syndrome screening is 14 weeks+2 days to 20 weeks+ 0 days of pregnancy. The second trimester test is only offered for Down's syndrome.

### Trisomy Screening Laboratory (first trimester)



### Trisomy Screening Laboratory (second trimester)



There are several screening programmes offered to pregnant women and their families, during pregnancy. These can help identify whether a woman and her baby are at increased chance of being affected by the conditions screened for and provide information of potential treatment or pregnancy management options available.

## National Networks

National networks work across professional and organisational boundaries to support Scottish Government policy aims of safe, effective healthcare that's designed around patients, carers and families. They are funded by NHS Boards and managed and governed through NSD.



### Clinical Networks

24 clinical networks support better access to high quality specialist care for individuals with rare conditions or highly complex care needs. They do this by bringing together health and other professionals to work with patients, carers, families, and voluntary groups to design pathways of care to ensure equal access to the highest standards of care, regardless of where people live in Scotland.

**Website:** <https://www.nn.nhs.scot/>

### Diagnostic Networks

Five diagnostic networks support improvements in how diagnostic services are delivered to ensure the right test at the right time.

**Website:** <https://www.nn.nhs.scot/>

In July 2023 the **Scottish Strategic Network for Diagnostics** was established to lead the transformation of diagnostic services in Scotland.

### Scottish Cancer Network

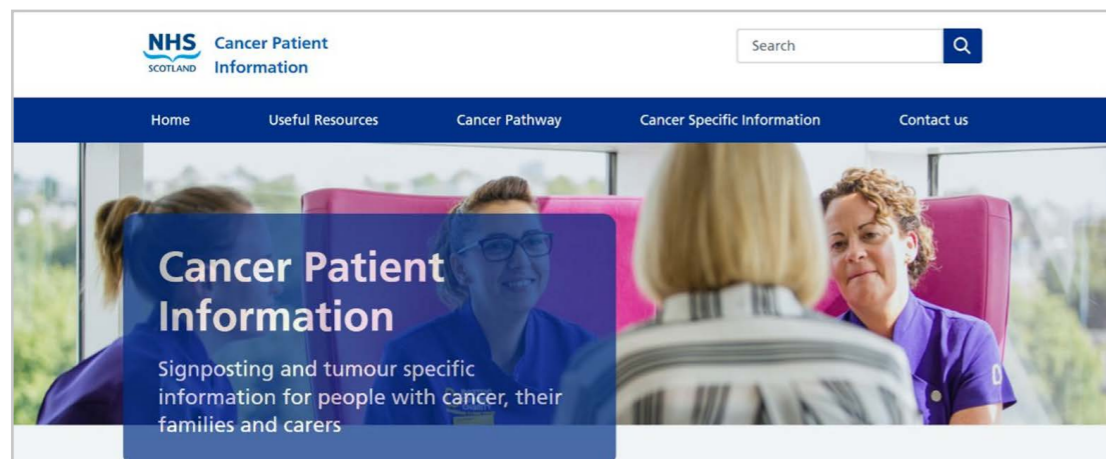
Aligned to national cancer strategy vision, the Scottish Cancer Network (SCN) supports and facilitates a 'Once for Scotland' approach to person-centred, equitable and accessible cancer care. The network receives £1.6million Scottish Government funding for delivery.

### Clinical Management Pathways:

By adopting a collaborative approach, the SCN develops national Clinical Management Pathways (CMPs) that define best practice for treatment and care, including guidance on follow-up, high risk surveillance and best supportive care for specific cancer types. treatment, improve communication across healthcare professionals, and provide signposting

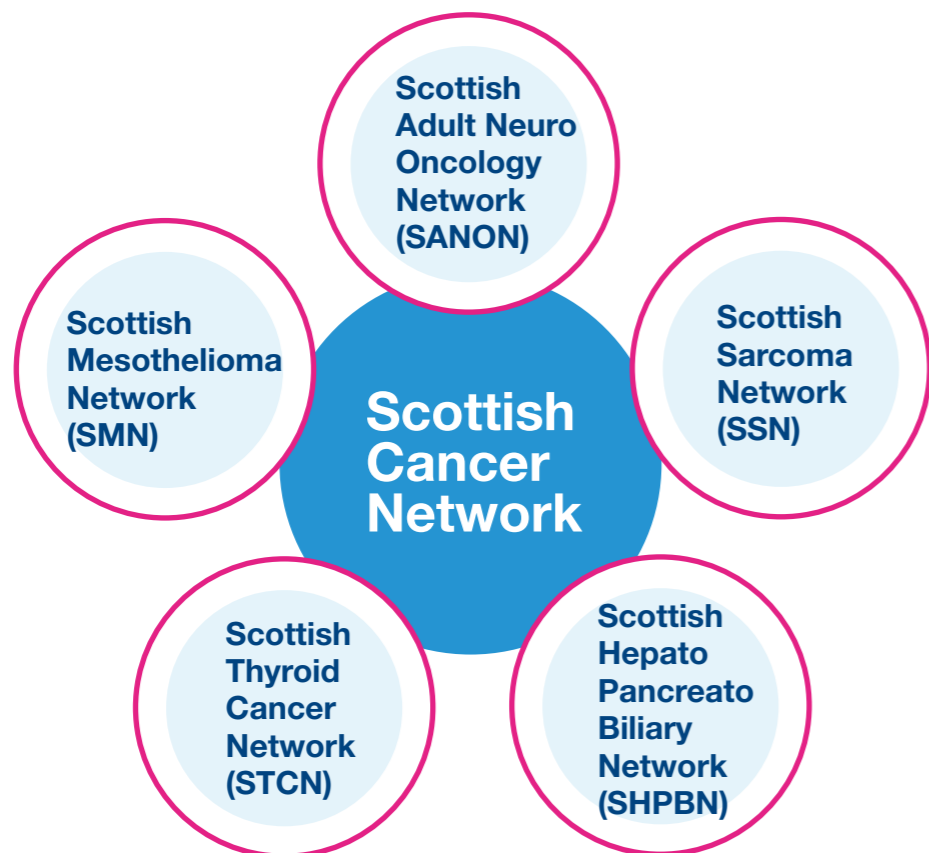
**Achievements:**

- CMPs providing best practice guidance for breast cancer, lung cancer and adult brain tumours published on the Right Decision Service platform.
- 200 stakeholders engaged in the current development of Prostate, Head and Neck cancer pathways with 14 specialist sub-groups.
- Scottish Cancer Network website launched to support patients with information and resources.



**National Managed Clinical Networks – Cancer**

The Scottish Cancer Network hosts five cancer networks that bring together a wide range of stakeholders to design optimal pathways, measure quality and drive forward improvements in cancer care and treatment.



**Collaborative Projects**

**National Oncology Transformation (OTP) programme:**

The SCN supported the mobilisation phase of the Government led Oncology Transformation programme by working collaboratively with stakeholders to identify key areas of opportunity for improvement. Five prioritised topics are being taken forward by Scottish Government as part of the next phase of the programme.

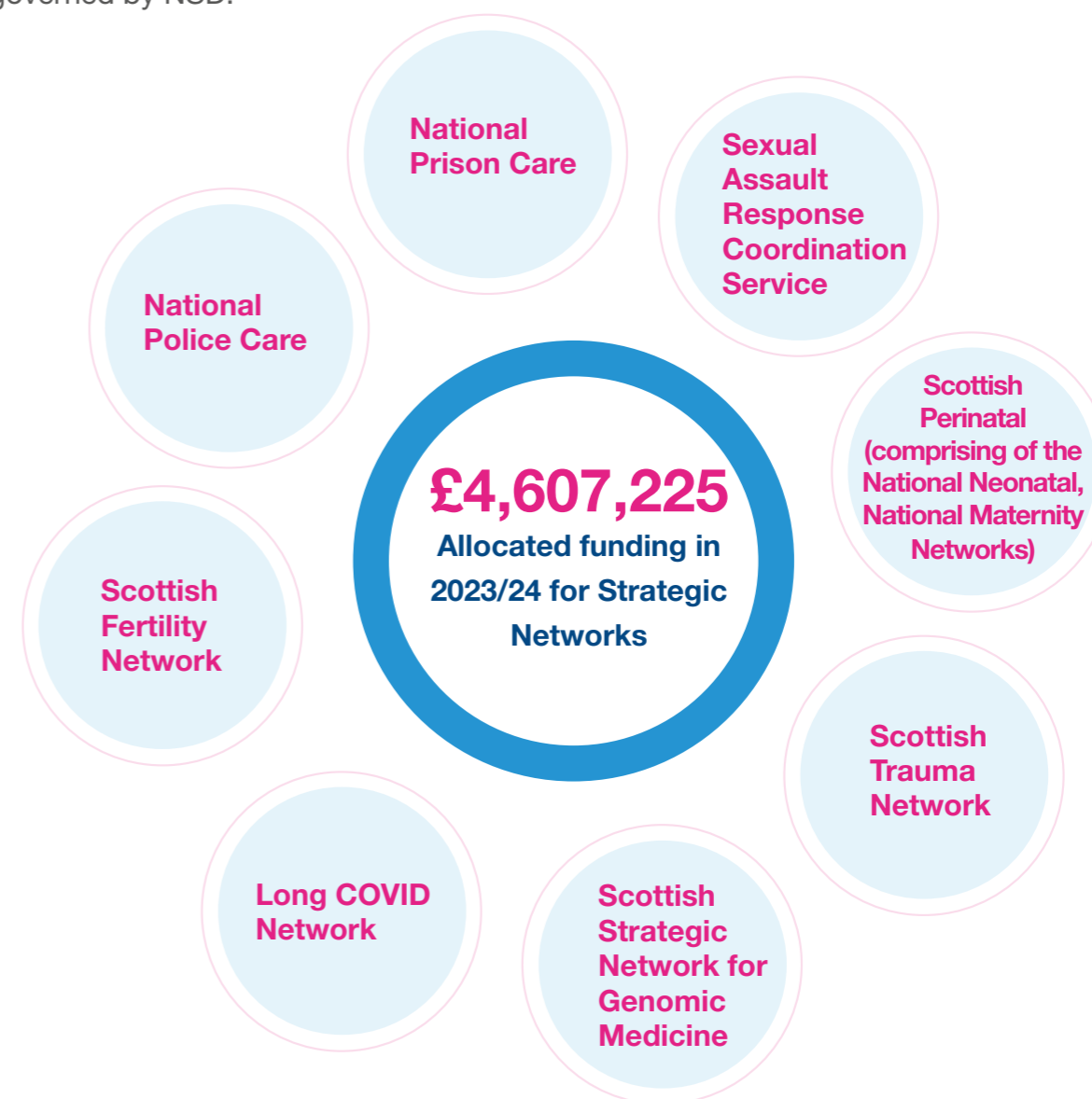
**Pancreatic and Hepatocellular Cancer Pathway Improvement Project (PHCC PIP):**

Driven by the need to improve develop earlier and faster diagnosis pathways for less survivable cancers, the SCN hosted the Pancreatic and Hepatocellular Cancer Pathway Improvement Project (PHCC PIP) during the initial phase to test and evaluate the effectiveness of improvement pathways for people living with suspected Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) or Pancreatic Cancer (PC). The pathways aim to shorten the length of time to diagnosis and to support improved patient care. The project outcomes will inform the design of a sustainable service model.

**Strategic Networks**

Strategic networks are commissioned when nationally focused, large major change across whole pathways of care is required.

In 2023/4 there were eight Strategic Networks funded by Scottish Government and managed and governed by NSD:



# National Planning

The National Planning team is embedded in NSD and is funded by Scottish Government Clinical Priorities Team. The National Planning Board provided oversight, governance and decision-making in relation to planning of NHS Scotland national services. In December 2023 the National Planning Board was stood down and replaced by the Strategic Planning Board. The Strategic Planning Board reports to the Planning and Delivery Board and is part of the National Planning Framework. The Strategic Planning Board has a significant role aligning service planning where delivery requires cross-border (Regional) co-ordination and direction. The National Planning Team is closely aligned with Specialist Commissioning and have been key to the development of a new strategic approach to designation for new applications to NSD

Key National Planning workstreams across 2023-24 were:



# Spotlight on...

## CAR-T Options Appraisal

Extending access to personalised cancer therapy for people with lymphoma in Scotland was a key priority for the National Planning team.

Receiving national designation in 2019, the highly specialised CAR-T Therapy service harnesses the power of patients own immune system to develop a potent and highly focused immune response to kill malignant cells. Based in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (NHSGGC), the service has successfully provided a single treatment therapy, offering the prospect of long-term disease control for patients with lymphoma and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia where no other effective therapy exists.

As further new treatments are expected to be approved by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) there was a requirement to ensure NHS Scotland had the capacity, funding and the highly skilled workforce to provide the expanding service.

With a strong focus on communications and engagement with all stakeholders, the National Planning team negotiated every aspect of what is a complex patient pathway with the final outcome of funding from Scottish Government to support increased capacity within the nationally commissioned service and mobilisation of additional services within NHS Lothian and NHS Grampian, towards the aim of a 3-centre regional model for CAR-T services in Scotland.

## Planning Collaboratively for Prison Healthcare Provision

In 2023, Ministers agreed that there was a need to improve access to, and the quality of, healthcare in prisons. Scottish Government therefore asked the National Prison Care Network to develop a nationally consistent approach to improve healthcare delivery in prison.

To do this, the Network worked with people in prisons, healthcare professionals, prison managers and policy officials to co-produce a Target Operating Model (TOM) for Prison Healthcare. The TOM provides a vision and a framework for consistent healthcare delivery across all Prisons, alongside tangible change ideas to achieve this.

The collaborative planning included 14 focus groups with 85 people living in prison in 6 prisons. People provided feedback on what was working well and areas for improvement. This ensured that the voice of people in living prison was at the heart of the TOM.

Over 50 healthcare professionals participated in subgroups and provided extensive input, setting out what health and wellbeing service should be provided in the prison.



The Network team visited 9 NHS Boards that host prisons to understand local priorities and pressures. A baseline assessment was also conducted to understand how services were currently delivering against the TOM. This information has enabled the Network to develop a robust programme plan to support implementation in 2024/25.

## National Peer Review - Scottish Trauma Network

The network delivered a national peer review of four trauma regions across Scotland to determine if STN provides value-for-money and improves patient care and outcomes after suffering trauma.

The review process began in September 2023. A panel was gathered comprising of 15 colleagues from five Scottish health boards, NHS England and the Scottish Trauma Audit Group (STAG). From mid-December to early March site visits took place over 7 days, with six panel members visiting each region in person to meet with trauma colleagues, discuss the evidence supplied and see how sites operated on a day-to-day basis.

The review found that trauma services in Scotland, while still developing, deliver high quality, person-centred patient care. Many examples of excellence and significant achievement were noted by the review panel. A total of 107 recommendations for improvement were made, for the national network and for regions to take forward.

Each network will work to implement the recommendations through regional action plans, with national recommendations being taken forward by the STN Programme Team and working groups. Progress will be monitored at a national level through STN governance as part of its strategic framework.



## ADAMTS13 Test repatriation to Scotland

Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP), is a condition characterised by blood clots forming in small vessels within the body. TTP is a clinical emergency with very high mortality if left untreated.

At present, the test to identify patients with TTP is the ADAMTS13 assay, which was previously predominantly carried out in England. Vital time was lost whilst transporting the sample. During the time whilst awaiting a test result patients within some regions had to be transported to another hospital, so if TTP was identified they were already within a centre that can carry out plasma phoresis, which is an essential time sensitive treatment for patients with TTP.

A quicker turnaround time for the results, has meant:

- In some cases, prevented unnecessary transportation of very sick patients
- Improved time to get patient on appropriate treatment plan
- Prevented some patients receiving unnecessary treatment while waiting for results

The uptake of the test in Scotland is increasing, this demonstrates the continued increase in benefits of the repatriation of the test to NHS Scotland. Clinicians have been pleased with the improve care for patients, and the reduction in time to result, means this is not only hugely beneficial to the patient concerned but also financially beneficial to NHS Scotland.

## Review of Aortic Arch, Thoracic, Thoracoabdominal and Suprarenal Aortic Aneurysm Service

The highly specialist national service, commissioned by NSD from NHS Lothian, is provided on the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh site at Little France and delivers high quality care to the population of Scotland. The service treats patients who require assessment and potential surgery on specific sections of the aorta. The aorta is the main artery in the body, as it passes through the chest and abdomen. An aneurysm is caused when the walls of the artery weaken and balloon out where there is then a risk of rupture.

The service, which was due for a planned review, faced a number of issues including increased demand from patients from across Scotland, changes in clinical practice regarding patient eligibility particularly due to the development and use of new innovative technology and minimally invasive procedures for complex endovascular aneurysm repair. A review was undertaken to establish how the service might meet the current and future service requirements. NSD also requested an evidence review of the minimally invasive techniques for complex endovascular repair from the Scottish Health Technologies Group - Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

The review concluded that the service delivers a high standard of clinical effectiveness and made recommendations to ensure that the service can deliver for the future population needs. This included the establishment of a National Pan-Scotland Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) to consider all potential cases, their suitability to be undertaken at the national centre, other regional centres in Scotland (for some minimally invasive techniques) or where no surgical intervention may be deemed appropriate.

A Clinical Reference Group (CRG) was also established to take forward other review recommendations. The group was chaired by the independent chair of the Pan Scotland MDT and its membership was formed with key stakeholders from vascular surgery, anaesthetics, internal radiology and NSD. The group were asked to agree clinical definitions that feed into the MDT referral forms, review the criteria for the national service and identify what procedures should only be carried out by the highly specialist service in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and to consider the contraindications for surgical or minimally invasive intervention.

The key outcome of this work is that the service now has updated clearly defined criteria for patients who require to be treated by the national service which is more reflective of the demand, updates in clinical practice and innovative techniques. This is underpinned by an updated service agreement between NSD and NHS Lothian and the now well established National Pan Scotland MDT, with clinical membership from across Scotland, providing clinical governance.





## You SAID, We DID

The NSD Strategy 2022-25 was developed following detailed consultation with our stakeholders and staff. Over 250 suggestions for improvement were received with over 170 of those related to weaknesses in our processes. From those improvement ideas we identified nine key priorities for change. Below is an overview on what NSD have delivered during the first two years of our strategy implementation

You said	We did
Simplify the commissioning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We developed a new simplified annual commissioning process which is prioritised proportionate, and person centred in April 2023.</li> <li>The annual 4 stage cycle ensures applicants are engaged throughout the process, deadline dates are specific and decision making is transparent.</li> </ul>
Develop a Customer supported commissioning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An application support team is mobilised to support stakeholders to navigate commissioning applications.</li> <li>We have also developed a written guidance document to support the process and what is needed.</li> </ul>
Develop an Online commissioning application process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application process is now on the ServiceNow digital platform.</li> <li>Unique reference created for each application.</li> <li>Applicants have full visibility of the application and can review updates and progress of their submissions at any time.</li> </ul>
Improve the review process, including criteria for escalation of poor performance and focus on Outcomes and Quality of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new independent review team has been established in NSD.</li> <li>A new review process has been established focussing on activity, performance, quality and patient outcomes.</li> <li>Services are prioritised for review using a risk based approach.</li> </ul>
Develop a strategy for decommissioning services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSD will continue to review services to determine those that no longer meet the national designation criteria and will decommission where appropriate.</li> </ul>
Develop a new reporting process and dashboards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Information Management Team have developed activity and finance dashboards.</li> <li>Health boards and NSD now have bi-directional financial and activity data which can be visualised using Tableau.</li> <li>Performance is reported to NSD governance groups, board Chief Executives and Scottish Government on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul>
Review the complex Governance process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSD have reduced the number of governance groups.</li> <li>We have produced a clear internal and external governance process which identifies the roles and responsibilities of each governance group at an NSD, NHS board and Scottish Government level.</li> </ul>
Support NHS Scotland by moving to portfolios of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSD have identified 8 proposed Portfolios of Care.</li> <li>We are working towards realigning our service delivery model by October 24 enabling services and networks to work more effectively together.</li> </ul>

## Further Information

For more information about the National Services Directorate:



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