



General Register Office for Scotland
information about Scotland's people

Paper NHSCR GB 7/06
NHSCR and the Citizen Account

November 2006

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to keep the Governance Board abreast of the developments taking place to set up a national infrastructure to allow the NHSCR to provide the NHS / Birth Registration Number and birth and death information to Local Authorities, for the purpose of the Citizen Account (CA). With effect from 11 November, we will have the necessary Regulations in place to allow us to share data our with the 32 Scottish Councils as well as with the Health Service and other approved groups.

2. Citizen Account

The Improvement Service, on behalf of all Local Authorities, is in the process of setting up the CA database, using the NHS number as the Unique Citizen Reference Number (UCRN). Tests are due to be carried out later this month to prove that the communication lines between the NHSCR and the new database work. Both sides also have to highlight any changes that need to be made to the message content to ensure success when the system becomes operational in March next year.

3. NHSCR Migration

For the NHSCR system to be able to expand our functions and uses to accommodate the CA work, and to offer a more flexible and interactive service to all our stakeholders, we needed to move from our current main frame (VME) to a relational database and web-browser based solution. This will bring our computer system, which was set up and developed around 1983, up to date.

4. Entitlement Cards

The issuing of voluntary Entitlement Cards, initially to people eligible for a concessionary bus pass from 1 April 2006 but capable of use for any Local Authority service where proof of entitlement is needed, was in effect a pilot for the full CA system. The NHSCR has successfully supplied in excess of 800,000 UCRNs to update the voluntary card system administered by the Improvement Service. At the request of the Chief Medical Officer we are also provide the Community Health Index (CHI) number. Registered deaths are forwarded weekly.

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