

Where are we and what are our aims?

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“For SIVAN, the patient is always integral with everything we do.”

The aim of SIVAN is to create a co-ordinated and standardised approach to improve Vascular Access policies and procedures. Through collaboration of members, the proposal is to create working groups whose focus is to identify the infrastructure, stakeholders and processes that are required to create an effective access network throughout Scotland.

Lizanne opened the SIVAN 2020 remote conference by firstly discussing the factors that impact critical thinking for SIVAN, including:

Workforce and education

Scotland is developing advanced practice nursing skills within not only the nursing sector, but also across other healthcare professions including paramedics, dietetics and pharmacists. We therefore need to be mindful of who we include when looking to implement change. SIVAN wants everyone to have access to training and to practice and maintain Vascular Access skills. Whilst there are 14 Health Boards across Scotland, each is doing different things, even within different ward settings. If the aim is standardised approach, we need to look at the different procedures, procurement, access to resources, education and the workforce in order to achieve a sustainable and effective framework for everyone to practice safely.

Vessel Preservation Framework (VPF)

Scotland has a VPF supporting the right patient, right time, right device and there are a large range of vascular access procedures and practice guidelines to support effective practice.

National infection prevention and control

If we are inserting devices into our patients, we want to make sure we are reducing infections rates.

Professional bodies

As healthcare professionals, we are all covered and bound by our Professional Bodies.

The aim of SIVAN is to include everyone so that we can look at what we do and why we do it. If its good practice then we should be bringing it on board to create an effective network for Scotland.

Lizanne then discussed various Vascular Access factors and components.

From a clinical perspective we need to consider is it peripheral or central Vascular Access. We need to consider the patient, what their disease process is, what we are going to give them, for how long and is it compatible with other medications? So when creating a network, SIVAN would like a team to review these aspects and to develop an algorithm for staff to use to effectively assess 'is it the right device for the patient?'

We are all duty bound legally to perform risk assessments for duty of care and we are all responsible for our own actions so we need to ensure every decision we make for our patient is the right decision.

Currently, Scotland uses different record keeping methods between secondary and primary care – some using bundles, some using patient notes. SIVAN is looking to create a method of record keeping that can be used across all sectors so staff can access information and feel confident when they are using or inserting a device.

Infection rates are a bug bear for every microbiologist and are affected during insertion of the Vascular Access device and by not maintaining the device appropriately. SIVAN would like to create a subgroup to review complications associated with Vascular Access so that troubleshooting guidelines can be put in place which support the prevention of patient hospital admissions associated with infection of Vascular Access sites.

So why create a Scottish Vascular Access Network?

This is not just about Scotland. We don't want to build a silo but to build a network where everyone is welcome to join. If we can improve current policies and projects, then we can plan, develop and action future projects more effectively.

With projects there are always different challenges. SIVAN would like to listen and understand those challenges and as a group, try to resolve these challenges together.

SIVAN is looking to ensure we are modernising and implementing change. It is about driving professional and personal development to ensure we lead and are accountable to always be safe and effective practitioners. We want the network to be a sustainable project – developing an independent and effective workforce that influences others. As such, we would like to develop subgroups focusing on:

- Training
- Education
- Research
- Evidence based approach
- Design and creativity
- Sustainability

So are you ready to join us at SIVAN? Change is sometimes hard but we can, as a team, come together to overcome the challenges.