



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Andy Kerr MSP for East Kilbride Constituency

Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
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Our Ref: 01110264  
Please quote on all correspondence

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Dear Nicola

### **Low Back Pain - Early Management of Persistent Non-Specific Low Back Pain**

I am aware of the NICE Guidelines published in May 2009 with regard to the above matter and I would wish to know if any steps been taken in Scotland by QIS to make recommendations based upon the NICE Guidelines or whether there is work being undertaken?

In particular, I would be interested to know the position in Scotland with regard to sequential interventions therapies as part of chronic pain management services. The NICE Guidelines indicates support for manual therapy, exercise and acupuncture as being appropriate for patients, as well as being cost effective.

It is also my understanding that in October last year, the Department of Health in England published a bulletin which went out to GPs encouraging them to recommend Complementary and Natural Health Council (CNHC) registered practitioners to patients looking for complementary healthcare.

Again, I would be obliged if you could advise me of the position of the Scottish Government with regard to this matter, particularly on the provision of complementary and alternative medicines through CNHC therapists.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely

**Andy Kerr**