

# SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

## WRITTEN ANSWER

16 March 2011

Index Heading: Health and Wellbeing

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will recommend sequential therapies for the treatment of persistent non-specific low back pain. (on my behalf)

(S3W-40126)

**Ms Nicola Sturgeon :**

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Guideline on Early Management of Persistent Non-specific Low Back Pain (May 2009) refers to the use of sequential therapies, in the section dealing with research recommendations. It suggests that further research is needed to address the question of the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of sequential therapies (manual therapy, exercise and acupuncture) compared with single interventions in people with persistent non-specific low back pain.

Helpful information on managing back pain is included in the 'Scottish Backs' pages of the NHS Inform website ([www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk)).

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE