

SOCIETY FOR CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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Working Group Report Annual Business Meeting 2007

REPORT FROM GRAHAM VENN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
(CLINICAL GUIDELINES)

A. MEETINGS

MEETING	DATE	MINUTES
Preliminary Conference Call	9 th Feb 2007	

B. MATTERS OF INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP:

The guidelines working group is in the currently determining the mandate and priorities for the group. Preliminary discussions have taken place at present.

C. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBERSHIP:

Clinical guidelines have been produced by a number of international organisations that impact on cardio-thoracic care. In the cardiac arena these include the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and the British Cardiovascular Society.

Part of the remit of these guideline publications is to recommend the provision of facilities to enable 'best practice' in individual provider units. This is seen as providing useful supporting data for units striving to improve facilities and service.

Where a variety of treatments exist for individual conditions the guidelines provide and evidence base for determining which patients benefit most from an individual modality, facilitating the direction of care.

The primary remit of the group is to provide a web-based resource through the SCTS web site facilitating access to clinical guidelines. The working group will collate data from existing guidelines and interpret these with appropriate commentary so that they are representative of UK practice.

Details of the initial guideline areas of interest are appended.

As a separate component of the work of this group BUPA are implementing care pathway guidelines produced by Milliman in the USA that will dictate treatment pathways and

associated remuneration. The group proposes linking with BUPA to take this forward as a joint initiative rather than being led by it.

Initial areas for guideline development:

- **Links with EACTS**
- **Coronary artery disease**
- **Surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation, indications and funding**
- **BUPA / Milliman initiative**

**Graham Venn
Chair, Working group on Clinical Guidelines**