

Health Care Needs Assessment for Patients with Skin Conditions

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In 1997 Professor Hywel Williams authored '*Dermatology: Health Care Needs Assessment*' a Chapter in *The Epidemiologically Based Needs Assessment Reviews, Second Series* published by Radcliffe Medical Publishing.

This document has proved to be an extremely helpful and relevant text which is referred to often in the context of informing commissioners and providers around specifying services for people with skin disease. It is referenced extensively in many of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin Disease reports. The only problem with that report is that it is now out of date.

Since 1997 there have been very significant changes in the delivery of health care in the UK and the NHS reform agenda has created a very challenging environment in which to ensure that patients with skin disease received high quality care. Several new studies have been published which relate to the UK Dermatology Needs Assessment, and new datasets have become available for populating the key tables.

Dr Julia Schofield is working with Professor Williams and his information specialist, Dr. Douglas Grindlay to update and re-publish the original Dermatology Health Care Needs Assessment taking account of evidence that has become available since the work was published 10 years ago.

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