1 Overview
This document is intended for new IT systems involving patient health records which are used by clinicians within NHSScotland.

2 Detail
Benefits
User interface design is an important aspect of providing NHS staff with quality tools to enable them in turn to deliver quality of outcomes. A well designed and consistent user interface is not only visually appealing but also has benefits in terms of increasing the accuracy of screen reading and input and therefore increasing patient safety. Applications will be easier to use and access to information will be optimised which reduces training requirements and speeds up procedures. Ideally, staff will find consistent user interfaces across NHS Scotland which avoids the need to re-adjust and re-train as part of the normal staff movements between Health Boards.

General design 'look and feel'
To develop a detailed design guide to suit all situations would be very difficult. Hospital wards at night and operating theatres for example may require subdued lighting, even black backgrounds and bright text has been used in some system designs for these locations. Wards during daytime and office areas would require more normal computer screens. Mobile devices used outside by community workers
may require particularly high contrast views with large print to be read on small screen mobile devices.

Typically there is also an assumption that user interfaces will be developed as modern graphical and windows-based user interfaces. However, it is important to recognise that sometimes there are systems that present through some form of text-based "green screen" terminal.

The standard therefore avoids being overly prescriptive and instead points to a few key principles for application designers to recognise which then need to be implemented according to the situation at hand and to the degree that it is reasonable.

**NHS Scotland corporate style and accessibility**

NHS Scotland has a corporate style for all documentation available at the link below. Some elements from this style may be used in designing the user interface as well as on screen and printed reports from an application.

NHS Scotland corporate style is available at: www.nhsscotlandci.scot.nhs.uk

Applications must follow good practice in terms of providing accessibility. Details are provided in the user interface guides referenced below. This includes the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 1.0) for the specific case of browser-based user interfaces. Level 2 conformance is recommended.

**Specific design elements**

NHS Scotland should make use of the NHS/Microsoft Healthcare Common User Interface (CUI) design guides available at the link below. In particular a strong recommendation is made to employ the following:

- Dates should be displayed using the CUI date format design guide.

- Patient banner – where system design allows a choice of where to display patient identification information then the patient banner design should be used.

Other aspects of the CUI design guides may be used at the discretion of the system designers and clinical users.

CUI design guides available at: www.mscui.net