Background

The Scottish Palliative care guidelines (SPCG) content aims to give practical advice to clinicians who encounter patients with palliative care needs. The guidelines started life as paper documents, moving onto an umbraco website in the early 2010s. A separate app was developed by West of Scotland University which hosted a limited number of guidelines. In 2022, there was a strategic review of the guidelines, including commission of a digital scoping with option appraisal.

AIM

To develop a more accessible, flexible website and application for the SPCG.
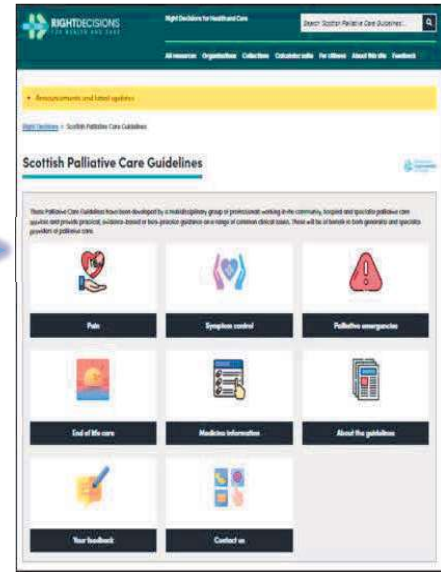
Method

The guidelines group supported the option to host the guidelines on the Right Decision Service (RDS) website and application. The first step was to transfer the guideline content to the new application by the RDS team, adapting sections to meet the new format. The guidelines group reviewed content, updated with agreed amendments along with changes to medicines license status. This is to be followed with a programme of development to utilise the added value features of RDS.
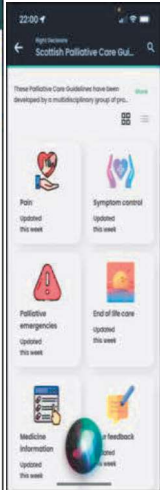
Discussion

The full range of guidelines materials are available on and offline to professionals, patients and carers. A faster, modernised format searchable interface makes it easier to implement and use validated evidence in day-to-day patient care implementing principles of realistic medicine. Partial loss of highlighted features such as colour coded risk management of medicines leaflets is receiving attention. A review cycle of the SPCG will enable content to utilise advanced features of RDS more effectively such as decision support. Feedback from end users is welcomed.

Old/Umbraco Website

New/RDS Website

App

Access via the web at:
https://www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/

OR

Download the Right Decision mobile app from the app stores. Search for the "right decisions" on the app stores. Install the app. Search within the app for "palliative care guidelines" and download the app to "my tool kit"

Website

Apple download

Android download

Conclusion

The RDS is a 'Once for Scotland' source of digital tools that enable people to make safe decisions quickly 'on the go', based on validated evidence. The new SPCG website and mobile application has been launched on the RDS platform. We look forward to working with stakeholders over the coming months to improve and expand content. Content can be accessed both on and offline once downloaded. We recommend updating all policies and procedures referring to the old website address, deleting the previous app and disseminating the new website and application to all colleagues within palliative care services and primary care.